GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

REPORT

ON THE

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL

DURING

1907-1908.

00132984

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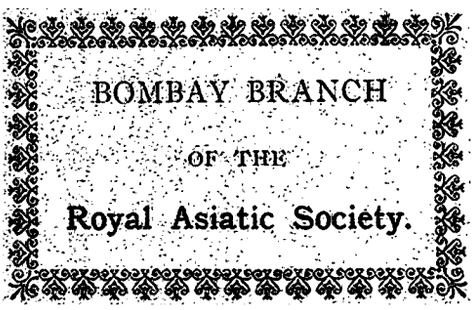

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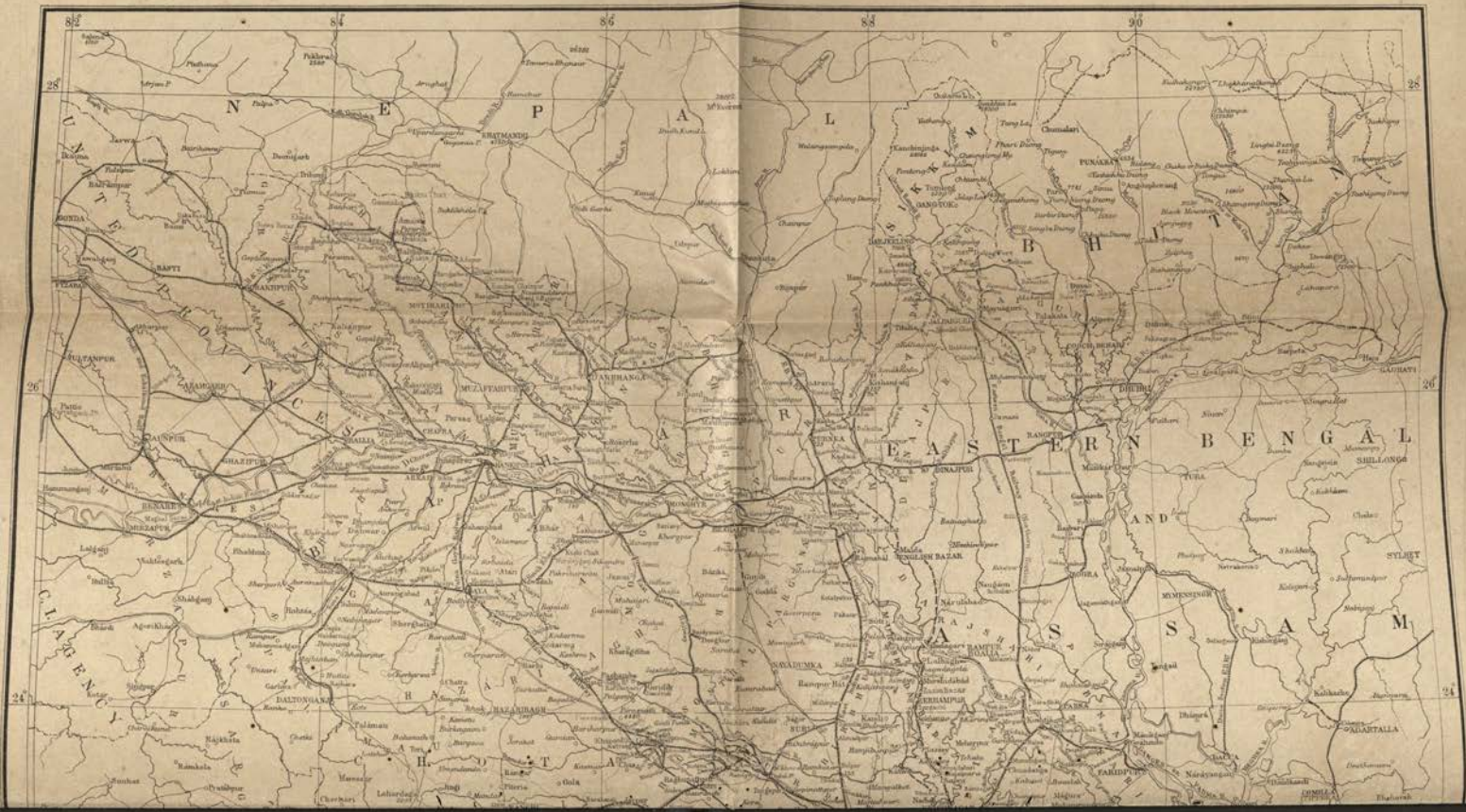
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UNITED PROVINCES
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GHAZIPUR
BALLIA
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BASTI
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CAWNPUR
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ENGLISH BAZAR
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BERHAMPUR
MURSHIDABAD
JANGIPUR
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CHUMBI
JALPAIGURI
COOCH BEHAR
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TURA
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GOALPARA
FARIDPUR
NARAYANGANJ
DALTONGANJ
HAZARIBAGH
GIRIDIH
BARHARWA
RAMGARH
PALAMAU
RANCHI
SINGBHUM
KHARAGPUR
KANSBANSA
BARABHUM
PANCHET
BANKURA
BURDWAN
HOOGHLY
CHANDERNAGORE
CALCUTTA
BARRACKPUR
BARASAT
DIAMOND HARBOUR
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THE PROVINCE
OF
BENGAL
Scale 1 Inch = 32 Miles, or 1/2,027,520
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Province or State ..... Boundary.
District & Minor States ... do.
Undemarcated ... do.
Subdivisions ... do.
Railway Line (open)
Do. (under construction)
Disputed
MOUTHS OF THE GANGES
CENTRAL PROVINCES
BENGAL
ORISSA
CHOTA NAGPUR
CALCUTTA
BERHAMPUR
VIZIANAGRAM
JEYPORE
BILASPUR
SAMBALPUR
CHAIBASSA
BALASORE
KHULNA
CHITTAGONG
SAUGOR I.
Lighthouse
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1866.
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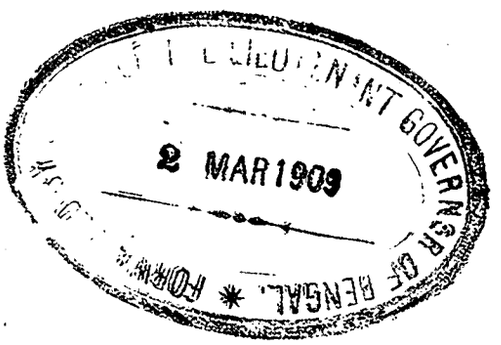

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PART I

GENERAL SUMMARY.

SUMMARY.

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ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1907-1908.

PART I.—GENERAL SUMMARY.

CHAPTER I.

POLITICAL AND PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.

HEAD-QUARTERS OF GOVERNMENT AND TOURS OF HIS HONOUR THE LIEUTENANT-GOVERNOR OF BENGAL DURING 1907-1908.

Head-quarters of Government.

THE head-quarters of Government were at Darjeeling from the 30th April to 28th June and from the 10th September to the 1st November. For the remainder of the year Calcutta was the head-quarters.

In April His Honour made an extended tour in the interior of the Sambalpur district and visited the Borasamar zamindari and part of the Feudatory State of Patna.

During the latter part of June His Honour paid a flying visit to Simla, at the request of His Excellency the Viceroy.

Monsoon tours.

2. The usual monsoon tour commenced from the 4th July; and the first portion of it was devoted to visiting Bankipur and Darbhanga. At the former place, His Honour stayed for about a week. At Darbhanga, the Lieutenant-Governor presented to the Maharaja Bahadur of Darbhanga the *sanad* conferring on him the hereditary title of "Maharaja Bahadur." From Bankipur His Honour travelled down the Ganges on the *Rohtas* and successively visited Barh, Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Rajmahal, Murshidabad, Berhampore, Katwa, Hooghly and Serampore, returning to Calcutta on the 25th July.

In August His Honour visited Burdwan and discussed with the local officers the question of the house accommodation for officials at that place. The site for the Central Hospital at Burdwan was also decided upon.

Ranchi was next visited; and from there His Honour went to Parasnath to discuss on the spot the question of leasing out sites for bungalows on the Parasnath Hill.

In October, while at Darjeeling, His Honour made a short trip in the interior passing through Chontong, Poolbazar, Kizam and Badamtong, where some Lepcha villages and several primary schools were inspected.

In November His Honour went to Hazaribagh to settle matters connected with the Reformatory and some other questions. *En route* His Honour again visited Parasnath Hill and discussed with the local officers and representative Jains the question of leasing out sites for bungalows on that hill. Ranchi was then visited, where His Honour opened the Purulia-Ranchi Railway. While at Ranchi His Honour also visited some places in the interior of that district.

Cold season tours.

During the latter part of November His Honour went to Sambalpur and thence by motor car to the Feudatory State of Sonpur. From Sonpur

the journey to Cuttack was made in boats by the river Mahanadi, the Feudatory States of Boad, Athmalik and Narsingpur and also Bankigarh being visited on the way.

In February His Honour went to Madhuban in the Champaran district on the occasion of the marriage of the young Maharaja of Hatwa, and also visited Ranchi for the opening of the Police Training College. A visit was also made to the Feudatory State of Bamra.

RELATIONS WITH TRIBUTARY STATES AND FRONTIER AFFAIRS.

Cooch Behar.

3. The administration of the Cooch Behar State continues satisfactory. The finances have improved and are now in a reasonably sound condition. Industrial improvements also made some advance.

States of Orissa.

4. In Orissa several changes of importance took place. The Lieutenant-Governor visted the States of Boad, Athmallik, Narsingpur, Dhenkanal, Sonpur, and Bamra, and also met the Chiefs of several other States. This was the first occasion on which the four States first mentioned had been visited by the head of the Province. Great gratification was expressed by the Chiefs at finding so much interest taken in them and their States; and His Honour was pleased to observe the efforts at progress which had been made, in several cases with no inconsiderable measure of success.

The States of Pal Lahera, Baramba and Narsingpur were released from Government management, and their administration was entrusted to the Chiefs under suitable conditions as to the exercise of their powers. The Raja of Keonjhar, who had absented himself from his State for some time and had ceased to take any part in its administration, abdicated the Chiefship; and the State was brought under Government administration.

The submission to Government of the budgets of States under Government management was discontinued; and the responsibility for supervision of the budget was delegated to the Commissioner as in the States transferred from the Central Provinces. The power to recognize the succession of Chiefs not enjoying salutes was delegated to the Local Government by the Government of India. The Chief of Boad revived his old claim to the Khondmals, which his predecessor had surrendered to Government half a century ago, because he found himself incapable of managing them. His pretensions were finally negatived by the Government of India.

The settlement of the Gangpur State was commenced and made considerable progress during the year. This operation had become especially necessary as great economic changes have taken place; and the demands of the State and the rights and status of the raiyats and headmen are alike in need of being authoritatively ascertained.

Considerable improvement took place in the jails of many of the States. Communications and the management of forests also received much attention. The appointment of a Political Agent has had very good effects in stimulating progress in all directions.

CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

Health.

5. The public health during the year under review was on the whole bad. Though the number of births was slightly greater than in

the preceding year, there was a large increase in the number of deaths, the total of which slightly exceeded the number of births. Fever, cholera and plague were chiefly responsible for the increase in the number of deaths.

Prices. 6. The prices of food-grains which had risen so unusually high in the preceding year continued to go up. This is attributed partly to the general small outturn of the crops following a series of bad harvests and partly to the export of grain.

Wages. 7. The rise in the wages of labour was maintained during the year. It was more particularly noticeable in the districts around Calcutta, though it was felt to some extent throughout almost the whole Province. The industrial development of the Province, with the opening of new collieries, mills, factories and railway lines, has led to an increase in the demand for labour, and to this the rise in wages is chiefly due.

Famine and floods. 8. Torrential rain along the foot of the Orissa hills caused disastrous floods in parts of the districts of Cuttack and Balasore in the latter half of August 1907. In Cuttack an area of 510 square miles, with a population of 321,869 persons, remained submerged for over three weeks. The area affected in Balasore was smaller and the violence of the rivers was less, still the destruction of the winter rice in the tract along the lower course of the Baitarani river towards the coast was almost complete. The flood was the highest on record. In both districts a large number of houses collapsed, but the loss of human life and cattle was small. Relief, in the shape of distribution of food and *takavi* advances, was promptly and adequately given. The subsidence of the floods was followed by continuous drought, which lasted till the middle of December. This drought affected the whole of the Province, and winter rice, by far the most important crop in the Province, was a total failure, except on low lands and in irrigated areas. Prices had also for some time past been unprecedentedly high. Test works and gratuitous relief were carried on during the year in the districts of Bankura, Cuttack, Balasore, Puri and Ranchi, and loans under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts were given freely throughout the Province. After the close of the year Nadia, Jessore, Angul and Hazaribagh were added to the list of affected districts, and it was subsequently found necessary to declare famine in an area of 2,261 square miles, with a population of 237,367 persons, in the district of Ranchi.

CHAPTER II.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

REALISATION OF THE REVENUE.

Demand and Collections. 9. The current demand of land revenue for the year was about Rs. 45,000 in excess of that of 1906-1907. The total collections were about four lakhs less than the current demand. Bad harvests and high prices told on the collections of the year. The remissions were the lowest on record, but the outstanding balances were more than three lakhs and a half in excess of the preceding year.

Sale Law.

10. The revenue sale law was administered, as usual, with leniency and moderation. There was an increase of 181 in the number of defaults, while the number of sales showed a decrease of 61. To lessen the chances of hardship in the case of estates owned by co-sharers whose shares are held in common, the Board of Revenue have issued instructions to District Officers to grant exemption from sale, on payment of a fine, in those cases in which clemency is deserved.

Revenue and Rent Money-Orders.

11. There was a slight decrease in the number of revenue money-orders, but the account of land-revenue and cesses thus remitted fell by over half a lakh. The number of rent money-orders and the amount covered by them show a slight increase. The percentage of refusals to receive payment was less than in the previous year.

Certificate Procedure and Cesses.

12. The number of certificates filed was less, but the number of cases disposed of was more than that of the preceding year. The summary procedure is used, as before, mainly for the realisation of the arrears of Road and Public Works cesses and of rents in Government and Wards' Estates. Under section 158A of the Bengal Tenancy Act, as amended by Act I (B.C.) of 1907, the landlord of an area in respect of which a record-of-rights has been prepared and is maintained may ask for the application of the certificate procedure to the recovery of the arrears of rent due to him. Several applications under this section have been received; but, as there is at present no law in the province for the annual maintenance of land records, the concession has not yet been granted to any landlord.

Road and Public Works cesses were levied as usual at the maximum rate of one anna on each rupee of the annual value of lands or the annual net profits of mines and other immoveable properties in the 30 districts in which the Bengal Cess Act, 1880, is in force. The current demand was over a lakh of rupees in excess of that of the preceding year. During the year valuations and revaluations were in progress in 18 districts and were completed in four districts.

Land Registration Department.

13. The work of revision of the Land Registration registers consequent on the amendment of the Land Registration Act and with reference to settlement records was continued. Notices of transfers were received regularly from Sub-Registrars, Civil Courts, other Departments of the Collectorate and the Land Acquisition Offices.

SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

Surveys and Settlements.

14. The progress of major survey and settlement operations under the control of the Director of Land Records during the year ending the 30th September 1907 was noticed in the Administration Report for 1906-1907 which issued late. Of other operations one of the most important was the survey of the suburbs of Calcutta which was almost complete when the year closed. The settlement of the district of Sambalpur was completed during the year with a net increase of revenue amounting to 29 per cent.

Constitution of a survey service for Bengal.

15. Since the partition of the Province, survey work both in this Province and in Eastern Bengal and Assam has been conducted by the same staff under the supervision of the Superintendent of Provincial Surveys. During the year it was decided that each province should be

independent of the other as regards its survey work and that each Province should have a separate Superintendent of Surveys. Detailed proposals for the constitution of a survey service for Bengal have been submitted to the Government of India.

LAND RECORDS.

16. The revision of the last settlement records of Orissa which was begun in the previous year made considerable progress during the past year. Vigorous efforts were made to recover the ground that was lost in the first year of the experiment and to organise the work on a sounder basis. The revised programme of the year was completed in full, and if funds be forthcoming the revision settlement of all three districts will be concluded by September 1912. The work has proved to be much more laborious and costly than originally anticipated, and a revised estimate of 11⅔ lakhs of rupees has been prepared to replace the previously sanctioned estimate of 6½ lakhs of rupees. In the light of the experience that has been gained in Orissa it is doubtful whether revision work should be undertaken in the permanently-settled districts of Bihar till the rest of the Province has been surveyed and settled for the first time. Revision work, Orissa.

WASTE LANDS.

17. Forms of leases for *raiyatwari* settlements in the Sundarbans, and for building sites and agricultural tenants in Fraserganj, were approved by Government during the year. Waste lands.

The progress of reclamation work at Fraserganj was retarded by outbreaks of cholera among the coolies and was not as satisfactory as had been expected. Seven thousand two hundred and eight acres have been cleared of jungle, 5,672 acres have been protected with embankments and dams and 3,025 acres have been made fit for cultivation. The number of settlers, however, is only 36. The applications for building sites received from European gentlemen have been withdrawn.

WARDS AND ATTACHED ESTATES.

18. The number of estates under management at the close of the year was 200, of which 117 were encumbered estates in the Chota Nagpur Division and the remainder were Wards and Trust Estates. Several important estates came under management during the year, including the Dumraon Estate in Shahabad, the Sonbarsa and Barari Estates in Bhagalpur, and the Maheshpur Estate in the Sonthal Parganas. Number of estates.

19. The general failure of crops resulted almost everywhere in short collections. The abnormally high outstanding balances were chiefly due to the fact that the Dumraon Estate which was taken in charge towards the end of the year has an arrear demand of over 42 lakhs of rupees. Debts amounting to almost 36 lakhs of rupees, or about an eighth of the sum still due, were paid in the year. As usual, a considerable sum was spent on works of improvement, agricultural experiments, schools and dispensaries. The education of the wards was attended with generally satisfactory results. General aspects.

REVENUE AND RENT-PAYING CLASSES.

Landlords and raiyats.

20. The relations between landlords and raiyats were on the whole satisfactory during the year under review. Tenants are gradually becoming more fully aware of their rights, and, as a rule, are now quite able to defend themselve legally against attempted encroachments by their landlords. Instances were reported of illegal attempts to enhance rents, and to exact illegal payments; and in Ranchi and Cuttack the settlement proceedings led to strained relations between landlords and raiyats. No serious agrarian disturbances, however, occurred in any part of the province.

CHAPTER III.

PROTECTION.

LEGISLATION.

Acts passed.

21. Three Acts (Nos. I to III of 1907) were passed by the Bengal Council during the year 1907-1908. Of these, the most important was the Bengal Tenancy Amendment Act (I of 1907), the leading provisions of which were described on page 17 of the Administration Report for the year 1906-1907. The Calcutta Port (Amendment) Act (II of 1907) enables the Calcutta Port Commissioners to raise loans for longer periods than that of 30 years formerly prescribed. The Calcutta and Suburban Police Amendment Act (III of 1907) increases the powers of the Commissioner of Police in dealing with disorderly houses and various nuisances.

Bills pending.

22. The Sambalpur (Evidence) Bill and the Puri Lodging-house (Amendment) Bill were introduced during the year, and passed shortly after its close.

POLICE.

Legislative proposals.

23. There were two legislative proposals affecting police administration.

A Bill was prepared and forwarded to the Government of India for the amendment of the Chota Nagpur Rural Police Act of 1887. Its objects were to secure greater fairness and elasticity by adopting the Tahsildari circle, corresponding to the union of Lower Bengal, as the unit of administration, instead of the village, and to improve the conditions relating to pay and supervision of chaukidars, delegation of powers and enactment of rules being also provided for. This measure remained pending with the Government of India.

The Calcutta and Suburban Police Act is dealt with under the head "Course of Legislation."

Cadets' Training School.

24. The Cadets' Training School was transferred to Ranchi and opened there in the abandoned Doranda Cantonment under the new designation of the Police Training College. The change had much in its favour; superiority of climate, adequate space and suitable buildings

being the principal points of advantage. There is every reason to hope that the College will now be still more efficient than before.

Chaukidari.

25. The service of processes through panchayats continues in the experimental stage. It appears to have improved in reliability, but the tendency to delay on the part of panchayats has still to be overcome.

Mr. Wheeler's final report upon village police was considered, and the revised Manual prepared by him was issued provisionally for general adoption in the districts in which Act VI (B.C.) of 1870 is in force, *i.e.*, all except those of the Chota Nagpur Division, Sambalpur, Angul, the Sonthal Parganas and Darjeeling. The outstanding feature of the new system is the transfer of control of the village police in all matters except assistance in the investigation of crime from the police to the panchayats. The daffadar is established as connecting link between the chaukidars, the panchayat and the police, and has to carry reports and orders between these functionaries. The chaukidars make their reports to the President of the panchayat and parade before him, attending the thana only once a month. An earnest attempt has been made by this system to give the people direct interest and responsibility for watch and ward, the prevention of crime and the maintenance of order in their own villages. The best men available have been chosen as panchayats and notably for the office of President; and if they are competent for the duty, the future success of the system is very much in their own hands. From the inception of the scheme the Lieutenant-Governor has recognised that it would not have a fair chance of success unless in each district a Deputy Magistrate could be specially charged with the supervision of the system. Unfortunately the strength of the service has not yet admitted of this being arranged for. When it becomes possible it is hoped that the rather frequent complaint that chaukidars are no longer in sufficient awe of the police to report crime punctually will be corrected.

Recruitment of Sub-Inspectors.

26. Rules were put in effect for the direct recruitment of Sub-Inspectors of Police. The guiding idea was the local nomination of qualified candidates. Under the rules District Magistrates and Superintendents of Police nominate residents of their district, and Deputy Inspectors-General residents of their range. A Nomination Committee consisting of the above-mentioned officers examines the candidates for each district and submits its nominations to the Inspector-General of Police.

Police work in the Mufassal.

27. There was an increase of 410 in the total number of reported cognizable cases, but the number of serious crimes against the person fell. Three hundred and six cases of murder were reported in 1907. Only 180 cases were detected and brought to trial, and of these only 43 per cent. ended in conviction. The number both of dacoities and of rioting cases showed a decrease, which has been progressive for the last three years. The Criminal Investigation Department did valuable work in breaking up gangs of thieves and dacoits, and in the investigation of cases of murder, forgery and other serious crimes. The enquiry into the attempt to derail the Lieutenant-Governor's train at Naraingarh on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway ended in the conviction of some railway coolies.

Police work in Calcutta.

28. An unusual increase in the number of cases of riot and unlawful assembly was principally due to the disturbances which took place on the 2nd and 3rd October 1907. A considerable increase occurred in the number of thefts and burglaries. It is hoped that proposals which have

been submitted to the Government of India for the improvement of the beat system will lead to a diminution in the number of burglaries. A campaign of political and racial agitation was carried on throughout the year in the Native Press and by speakers at numerous public meetings. It culminated in an unruly meeting in Beadon Square, which had to be broken up by the police. General disturbances took place in the northern quarter of the town on the 2nd and 3rd October. Allegations were made against the conduct of the police in quelling the riots, but an enquiry showed that as a body their discipline had been creditable.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

Work of the year.

29. There was a falling off in the number of reported offences under special and local laws during the year, although offences under the Penal Code showed an increase, especially in the Presidency town, the 24-Parganas, Balasore, Darbhanga, Shahabad, Jessore, Nadia and Bankura. The number of cases found to be false after trial or enquiry was greater than in the previous year. Although there was an appreciable increase in the amount of work coming before the Magistrates of the Presidency town, yet taking the Province as a whole, there was a small decrease in the number of cases brought to trial before Magistrates. The appellate work of Magistrates showed a slight decrease and their revisional work an increase.

In the Courts of Sessions there was a perceptible decrease of both Sessions and Appellate work. The revisional work, however, showed a slight increase. In the High Court a decrease of appellate work and an increase of revisional work are noticeable as compared with the preceding year. The work of the subordinate criminal courts was on the whole satisfactory.

A notable feature of the criminal judicial administration of the Province in recent years has been the appearance of offences against the State. During the year under review, 13 persons were under trial before the Presidency Magistrates for such offences. In addition to the above, 26 persons (23 in Nadia and 3 in Khulna) were proceeded against under section 108 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for disseminating seditious matter.

JAILS.

Jails.

30. The total jail population of Bengal at the close of the year amounted to 15,264, the daily average showing a slight decrease as compared with the figures for the previous year. The most gratifying feature in the Jail administration of the year was the decrease in mortality among the prisoners. The death-rate which fell from 23·7 to 17·5 per mille is the lowest on record, marked success having been attained in combating malaria and tubercle of the lungs. Dysentery, which in the past had made the Midnapore Jail the most unhealthy in the Province, was successfully treated by Captain W. E. Foster's method of vaccine therapy, the rate of mortality from this disease falling from 25·8 to 3·8 per mille, while the general death-rate of the jail declined from 55·2 in 1906 to 17·9 in the past year. The steps taken to prevent over-

crowding also contributed towards the healthiness of the jails. A scheme is now under consideration for the separation of selected habitual and dangerous criminals in one of the Central Jails, where they will be under specially rigid discipline. Steps were also taken during the year to impress on Magistrates the importance of preserving young offenders from the contaminating influences of jail life, and a special jail for juvenile adults has been opened at Alipur since the close of the year under review. Sanction has also been given as a tentative measure to the introduction in the Presidency Jail of a scheme under which prisoners are allowed to earn certain privileges by good behaviour and industry alone. The Inspector-General submitted during the year proposals for the revision of the warder establishment and the modification of the leave rules applicable to warders. These proposals were sent on for the consideration and orders of the Government of India and have been sanctioned since the close of the year.

CIVIL JUSTICE.

Calcutta High Court.

31. The number of suits decided in 1907 was 1,287, leaving 838 undisposed of at the end of the year, which was 340 less than the number pending at the commencement of the year. There were 303 suits pending over one year, showing a decrease of 212 on the figures of the previous year. Of the number decided, 338 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution; 286 were decreed after contest; 192 were decreed *exparte*, and the remainder were disposed of in other ways.

Subordinate Civil Courts.

32. The year under review was marked by a large decrease in the number of original suits instituted in the civil courts. The decrease was fairly evenly divided among all classes of suits; those for money and moveables, rent suits and title suits showing decreases of 5·4, 6·2 and 5·9 per cent. respectively. The total value of suits instituted amounted to Rs. 7,50,66,507, showing an increase of over ninety-one lakhs over the total for 1906. The increase was due to the institution of several title suits of exceptionally high values in Gaya, Bhagalpur, Chota Nagpur and Saran. The decrease in institutions was most marked in Cuttack, Burdwan, Bhagalpur, Hooghly and Midnapore. In Jessore and the 24-Parganas the number of institutions was over 46,000 and 41,000 respectively. There was a marked increase in the duration of cases tried under the ordinary procedure by District and Subordinate Judges as well as by Munsifs.

The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 69,904 as against 70,145 in the previous year.

In the Calcutta Small Cause Court out of 23,025 suits disposed of during the year, no less than 17,777 were decided without contest.

There was an increase of appellate arrears in the courts subordinate to the High Court, and a decrease in the number of inspections of the Courts of Sub-Judges and Munsifs made by District Judges.

REGISTRATION.

Registration.

33. There was an increase of 2·7 per cent. in the total number of documents registered. This is attributed principally to the dearness of food-grains and to settlement operations. The income and expenditure of the Department increased by 7·9 and 8·5 per cent., respectively. During

the year the work of reorganizing the ministerial establishment of the Sub-Registrars was completed.

Working of the Indian Companies Act.

34. Eighty companies were registered during the year, of which 48 were coal companies. One hundred and seven companies increased their capital and 13 companies wound up their business.

MUNICIPAL ADMINISTRATION AND LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT.

Municipalities outside Calcutta.

35. One new Municipality was formed at Khagaul, in the Patna district; while that at Ulubaria, in the district of Howrah, was abolished during the year.

The steady rise in collections noticeable in recent years was not maintained, the falling off being most marked in the Orissa Division, where scarcity prevailed during several months of the year.

The assessment was revised in 84 municipalities, the most important case being that of Howrah, where an increase of revenue amounting to nearly two and a quarter lakhs was obtained. Considerable opposition was aroused locally, and several memorials were submitted to Government in connexion with the proceedings of the Municipal Commissioners. The objections were carefully considered and rejected by the Lieutenant-Governor, who found that much credit was due to the Chairman and Commissioners for the manner in which the difficult task of revision had been performed.

Much attention was paid to the subjects of pure water-supply and drainage. Several schemes for the installation of water-supply and several comprehensive drainage schemes for municipal areas were under preparation during the year. Increased expenditure was incurred on account of conservancy, medical aid and road maintenance.

With a very few exceptions, favourable reports were received of the work done by the Municipal Committees. At Burdwan the action of the Commissioners in regard to the licensing of local meat-shops has been severely criticised. The very unsatisfactory administration of their finances by the Berhampore Commissioners has compelled the Lieutenant-Governor to issue a clear warning to them. The working of the Uttarpara Municipality was reported to have been very unsatisfactory in consequence of strong party feeling and the action of an individual Commissioner.

Calcutta Municipality.

36. The past year was one of steady progress in many directions. The scheme for the improvement of the filtered water-supply by the erection of an elevated reservoir at Tallah so as to contain 9 million gallons of water, the construction of a large trunk main from Tallah to Wellington Square, and additional pumping stations at Pulta and Tallah, the total cost of which is 69 lakhs, received the sanction of Government during the year. The offer of the Oriental Gas Company to forego the remaining three years of their existing contract and introduce improved lighting at once so as to provide for lamps of two and-a-half times the brilliancy of the existing lamps was under the consideration of the Corporation. The project for the drainage of the Fringe Area at a cost of Rs. 30 lakhs was sanctioned. The Accounts Department has been strengthened and the standard of efficiency of the Assessment, Survey, Collection and License Departments has been very creditably maintained.

The Calcutta Improvement Scheme, which has been under consideration for several years past, has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State under certain conditions; and a draft Bill giving effect to the scheme has been submitted to the Government of India since the close of the year.

37. The number of District and Local Boards and their constitution remained unchanged. A new Union Committee was established at Ulubaria in the Howrah district. **District Boards.**

The total income of the Boards increased by more than seven lakhs, of which more than one and-a-half lakhs accrued under "Provincial Rates." The revenue from pounds and from ferries also rose satisfactorily, while four Boards derived considerable income from their shares of the profits from light railways established under their guarantee. The 24-Parganas Board obtained a loan of nearly six and-a-half lakhs of rupees from Government towards the execution of the important Magrahat Drainage scheme.

The aggregate expenditure increased correspondingly; but, although the total closing balance was reduced by about two lakhs, many of the Boards did not succeed in making sufficient use during the year of the augmented funds at their disposal, or in working up to their sanctioned programmes. The special attention of the local officers had to be drawn to this failure.

Increased attention was given during the year to the construction of new and the improvement of existing communications and bridges, including feeder roads to railways, to the provision of medical aid, to the extension of veterinary work, to the administration of pounds, to the promotion of agricultural and industrial shows, and to roadside arboriculture.

Cordial relations continued to exist between the local executive officers and the Boards; and the Lieutenant-Governor was able to congratulate these bodies on the very good work that had generally been done, and on the personal interest which members had taken in their duties.

38. During the year the operation of the Lodging-house Act was withdrawn from the towns of Midnapore and Garhbeta. The by-laws in force in the districts of the Orissa Division were revised. Since the close of the year an Act has been passed to amend the Lodging-house Act in order to remove the defects which the practical working of the Act has disclosed. **Puri Lodging-house Act.**

MARINE.

39. There were 52 pilots on the active list at the close of the year 1907-1908 against 50 at the end of 1906-1907. There were two casualties; one Branch Pilot and one Leadsman Apprentice were invalided. Five Leadsmen were recruited from England. **Pilot service.**

The pilotage receipts amounted to Rs. 13,49,151, against Rs. 14,21,189 in 1906-1907. The rates for pilotage vary with the draft of the vessel and not with the tonnage, and the fall in the receipts would appear to indicate that a larger tonnage of cargo is now being carried out for the same draft.

Calcutta Shipping Office.

40. The receipts of the Calcutta Shipping Office amounted to Rs. 80,453 as against Rs. 84,380 in 1906-1907. The decrease is due to the falling off in the receipts under the heads "Shipping fees," "Discharging fees" and "Overtime fees." The shipments and discharges under both the European and Indian articles showed a decrease. The decrease under the European articles may be accounted for by the larger employment of native crews, while that under the native articles may be ascribed to the effect of the amendment of the law relating to foreign running agreements by Act VI of 1906.

Calcutta Port Trust.

41. The income of the Calcutta Port Trust amounted to Rs. 1,09,57,142 as against Rs. 1,00,08,737 in 1906-1907, and the expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,07,84,105. The surplus for the year was Rs. 1,73,037.

Sinking Funds to the extent of Rs. 68,26,039 have been accumulated for the repayment of debenture loans. The net balance standing at credit of the Depreciation Fund on 31st March 1908 was Rs. 5,63,137. The balance at credit of the Fire Insurance Fund was Rs. 6,65,801 only.

Howrah Bridge.

42. The income of the Howrah Bridge amounted to Rs. 2,40,593 as against Rs. 2,37,016 in 1906-1907.

The Ports of Orissa.

43. The receipts of the Orissa ports amounted to Rs. 6,522 as against Rs. 14,934 in 1906-1907. This falling off is attributable to a large reduction in the export of rice from False Point and Chandbali due to a short crop in 1907.

Extension of Kidderpore Docks.

44. In connection with the scheme for the extension of the Kidderpore Docks and the general improvement of the Port of Calcutta, large areas of land, comprising between five and six thousand bighas, are being acquired in Garden Reach and its vicinity. The expenditure involved is very heavy and the work of acquisition requires care and tact. An experienced officer of the Indian Civil Service has been deputed to the work.

CHAPTER IV.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

AGRICULTURE.

Department of Agriculture.

45. Considerable progress was made in the establishment of Agricultural stations in the Province. The laying out and equipment of the stations at Bankipur and at Sabour in Bhagalpur were almost completed. Land was acquired for a station at Chinsura to represent the agricultural conditions of the deltaic districts, and temporary arrangements for its cultivation were

made. Arrangements were also made for starting a station at Kharagpur, in the district of Midnapur, which will represent the laterite area. Land was selected for a station at Ranchi, and steps are being taken for its acquisition. Two new demonstration farms have been started during the year, one at Kalimpong under the management of the St. Andrew's Colonial Homes, and the other at Fraserganj under the supervision of the Deputy Collector in charge of the Sundarbans. Useful work was done during the year by the Divisional Agricultural Associations, to each of which a grant of Rs. 1,000 was made as in previous years. Twelve leaflets were prepared by the Department, and vernacular translations of eleven of these were widely circulated.

Bengal Agricultural Service.

46. The Department of Agriculture was separated from that of Land Records in 1906. Since then the former has developed rapidly. Experiments are being made in various crops; experimental and demonstration farms are being established in several places; and an Agricultural College is in course of construction. With the expansion of the Department, it has become necessary to create a separate Agricultural service. Proposals have been submitted for the formation of such a service, to be divided into two classes, called the Provincial Agricultural Service and the Subordinate Agricultural Service. These are under consideration.

Improvement of wheat.

47. The subject of the improvement of wheat has been engaging attention for some time past. It was specially considered at the second meeting of the Board of Agriculture held in January 1906. It was suggested that before proceeding further, an agricultural survey of the varieties of wheat grown in the Province should be made. A special officer was accordingly deputed, who has submitted an interesting report on the subject.

Revival of Silk Industry in Bengal.

48. A scheme for giving effect to the remedial measures proposed by the Committee appointed to enquire into the state of the silk industry was received from the Director of Agriculture, Bengal, during the year, and was sanctioned by Government. It includes the construction of a Central Nursery with twenty small subsidiary Nurseries for the supply of pure seed, *i.e.*, live cocoons. In order to carry out this scheme successfully, it was considered necessary to have a qualified Sericultural Superintendent. A permanent post of Sericultural Superintendent on Rs. 300—20—500 was accordingly created with the sanction of the Government of India, and Babu Apurva Kumar Ghosh, the Superintendent of the Silk Committee, was appointed to this post.

CO-OPERATIVE CREDIT SOCIETIES.

Co-operative Credit Societies.

49. The number of societies which at the end of the preceding year was 216 increased to nearly 400. The membership has also largely increased. The statistics indicate a great and encouraging development.

The fact that 45 per cent. of the capital of the rural societies has been supplied by investors is proof that public confidence in the movement is growing. A scheme for combining societies in local unions for purposes of finance and control has been approved by the Government, and will be given effect to at once.

WEATHER AND CROPS.

Weather and crops.

50. The seasons were on the whole extremely unfavourable. Unusual rainfall in March and April caused considerable damage to *rabi* at the commencement of the year. Rain was deficient in May and the early part of June, but the monsoon set in seasonably. Heavy rain in August caused disastrous floods in parts of the Orissa Division. The total rainfall of the year was, however, below the normal and unevenly distributed. The almost total absence of rain in the months of September, October and November seriously affected the *bhadoi* and *aghani* crops and curtailed *rabi* sowings. The outturn of all these crops was much below the average. The paddy on high lands was practically a total failure. Prices were much above the normal, and the failure of winter rice caused severe distress in a large number of districts.

HORTICULTURE.

Arboriculture.

51. A class lasting for one month was opened on the 12th August 1907 at the Royal Botanic Garden, Sibpur, for the training of overseers, sub-overseers and other subordinates of District Boards in arboriculture; 29 officers attended the course, and all but eight districts were represented.

Cinchona.

52. At the Cinchona plantation and factory the year was marked by special activity. The Mungpoo and Munsong plantations were placed upon an independent footing. The plantations were extended by 110 acres. The output of quinine sulphate during the year was the largest hitherto produced, due partly to the employment of new machinery and partly to improved methods of working and greater zeal. The average yield of quinine from the bark showed an appreciable increase; and a sustained effort is now being made to largely increase the quinine contents of the bark by careful plant selection.

Supervision of Government Gardens.

53. A Gardener from Kew has, with the consent of the Secretary of State, been appointed to supervise and improve the Government gardens in and near Calcutta, which are rapidly becoming more attractive to the general public.

FORESTS.

Reorganisation of the Forest Services.

54. In 1906, the Government of India announced the enhanced rates of pay of the administrative posts to which the sanction of the Secretary of State had been obtained; and in order to complete the reorganisation of the Imperial Forest Service thus begun, the Government of India obtained, during the year, the sanction of the Secretary of State to the abolition of the system of payments by grades, and to the establishment, in its place, of a system of personal pay dependent on the length of service of the individual officer.

With a view to attract a larger number of candidates of the quality required for the responsible duties entrusted to Extra Deputy Conservators and Extra Assistant Conservators, it has been proposed to introduce, for the Provincial Forest Service, a time-scale system of pay under which each officer's salary will rise steadily year by year

according to length of service up to a certain maximum, whatever be the number of vacancies in the Department above him, together with a system under which he will have a prospect of being selected for appointments to posts of greater responsibility and carrying a higher rate of pay. This scheme is now under the consideration of the Government of India.

The reorganisation of the permanent Executive and Subordinate Forest staff and that of the ministerial staff of the Forest Department have also been sanctioned by this Government during the year.

MANUFACTURES AND MINES.

Number of Factories.

55. The number of factories increased during the year from 190 to 204, and provided employment for a daily average of 293,490 operatives as against 266, 205 in the previous year. There was a strike among the weavers of the Serampore Hastings Mill, but no disturbance attended it and it was of very short duration.

Factory operatives.

56. The sanitary arrangements of the factories continued to be satisfactory on the whole. The majority of mill-owners now recognize that any neglect of the comfort and health of their hands is detrimental to their own interests. Most mills provide well-built houses and a supply of filtered water for their operatives. The general health of the hands was good, and no epidemic disease broke out in any factory. Close attention was paid to the working of the septic tank installations, and definite orders have been issued that turnstiles shall invariably be used to check the number of persons using the latrines. Certifying Surgeons have been instructed to take the thumb impressions and record the personal marks of the children they examine. This will facilitate the identification of children and prevent personation.

TRADE.

Changes.

(The trade of the ports of Chittagong and Narayanganj which now belong to the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam is excluded from the figures for the years 1906-1907 and 1907-1908, but is included in the provincial figures for the previous years.)

Foreign Trade.

57. The value of the sea-borne trade (merchandise only) of the Province in 1907-1908 was the highest on record, 122·65 crores of rupees, and exceeded the figures of 1906-1907 (themselves a record) by Rs. 1·74 crores or 1·44 per cent. Of this total Calcutta accounted for Rs. 122·52 crores against Rs. 120·48 crores in 1906-1907.

Though the expansion of trade was not so rapid as in the four years preceding, the figures cannot but be regarded as satisfactory in view of certain adverse factors, the famine in Northern India, the unsatisfactory rice harvest in parts of the Province and the American financial crisis.

Imports.

58. Imports into Calcutta aggregated Rs. 52·59 crores, to which yarn and textile fabrics contributed Rs. 24·72 crores, an increase of 28 per cent. over the figures of the previous year. Metals and manufactures of metals increased in value by Rs. 3,03·1 lakhs or 31 per cent.; the value of iron (Rs. 2,62·60 lakhs) and steel (Rs. 1,86·05 lakhs) imported rose by 22 and 19 per cent., respectively, but the most

noticeable increase is under the head of Copper (Rs. 72·91 lakhs). Hardware and cutlery (Rs. 1,11·43 lakhs), machinery and mill-work (Rs. 2,65·95 lakhs) and Railway plant and rolling stock (Rs. 3,12·43 lakhs) also advanced in value, the percentage of increase in the case of the latter being 63. Other principal articles imported were sugar (Rs. 3,78·04 lakhs), oils (Rs. 1,72·05 lakhs), spices (Rs. 70·67 lakhs), woollen goods (Rs. 69·15 lakhs), drugs and narcotics (Rs. 67·92 lakhs), instruments and apparatus (Rs. 65·56 lakhs), salt (Rs. 62·80 lakhs), liquors (Rs. 59 08 lakhs), and apparel (Rs. 55·81 lakhs). With the exception of spices, all these items show increases ranging from 13 per cent. in the case of sugar to 55 and 63 per cent. in the case of woollen goods and Railway materials, respectively. The share of the United Kingdom in the total imports rose from 74·53 to 74·64 per cent.

Exports.

59. The total value of exports was Rs. 69·93 crores of rupees against Rs. 78·48 crores in 1906-1907, a decrease of 10·9 per cent. The trade in jute, the most important article of export, aggregated Rs. 33,92·55 lakhs against Rs. 39,77·86 lakhs in 1906-1907, taking the figures of the manufactured and raw article together. Other principal articles were tea (Rs. 7,67·04 lakhs), opium (Rs. 6,38·86 lakhs), hides and skins (Rs. 5,56·49 lakhs), lac (Rs. 3,98·22 lakhs), oil-seeds (Rs. 3,95·61 lakhs), and grain and pulse (Rs. 2,40·90 lakhs). The value of oil-seeds rose by 76 per cent., and tea and lac also show small increases, but the trade in other items fell considerably. The United Kingdom was the largest importer of goods shipped from Bengal, her share being 25·51 per cent., followed by the United States with 16·64 per cent., and Germany with 12 per cent.

The total trade under the head of treasure was Rs. 7·88 crores against 9·19 crores in 1906-1907, the excess of imports over exports being Rs. 7·04 crores. Australasia contributed Rs. 4·04 crores, and the United Kingdom Rs. 1·79 crores.

Frontier Trade.

60. The total value of the registered transfrontier trade (excluding treasure) was Rs. 3·66 lakhs in 1907-1908, as compared with Rs. 3·02 lakhs in the previous year, an increase of 21 per cent. Of this Rs. 3,23·86 lakhs, or about 88·4 per cent. is represented by the trade with Nepal. There was a marked increase in the Nepal trade of Rs. 55 lakhs, or 20 per cent. (Rs. 42 lakhs in imports and Rs. 13 lakhs in exports, owing principally to a rise of Rs. 34 lakhs in the imports of rice and paddy. The total value of the trade with Tibet, which still has to contend with great difficulties in the matter of communications and expense of transport, was Rs. 25·54 lakhs, as compared with Rs. 21 lakhs in the preceding year, the import representing Rs. 13·68 lakhs, and export Rs. 11·86 lakhs. The trade of Sikkim advanced from Rs. 12 lakhs to Rs. 16·21 lakhs, and that of Bhutan from Rs. 19,236 to Rs. 38,684. The total value of imports into Bengal from the transfrontier countries was Rs. 2,51·28 lakhs, more than double the total value of the exports (Rs. 1,14·72 lakhs).

Coasting Trade.

61. The total value of the coasting trade of the Province rose to Rs. 21·85 crores, as compared with Rs. 18·34 crores in 1906-1907, an increase of 19·1 per cent. Imports rose by Rs. 2·6 crores, and exports by Rs. 91 lakhs. Large receipts of paddy and rice from Burma and of cotton manufactures from Bombay were the chief

feature of the import trade. Coal was the most important article of export, though the quantity was slightly less than in 1906-1907. Exports of jute manufactures amounted to Rs. 2,73·04 lakhs, an increase of 18·6 per cent.

Rail- and River-borne trade.

62. The imports into Bengal (including Calcutta) from other Provinces amounted in the year to Rs. 51 crores, as compared with Rs. 54 crores in the previous year. Jute raw (16 crores), Indian tea (6 crores), oil-seeds (3 crores), opium (2 crores), hides and skins (2 crores), wheat (1·8 crores), gram and pulse (1·7 crores), and raw cotton (1·4 crores) were the principal articles of this trade.

Exports from Bengal (including Calcutta) to other Provinces were valued at Rs. 42 crores, as compared with Rs. 35 crores in the preceding year. The principal articles of export were cotton goods (12 crores), metals, chiefly iron and steel (4·57 crores), rice husked and unhusked (5·25 crores), sugar (3·44 crores), and oils (2·18 crores).

FISHERIES.

63. Mr. K. G. Gupta, Member, Board of Revenue, was placed on special duty in August 1906 to make enquiries as regards the possibility of improving and developing the fisheries in Bengal. He made extensive inquiries throughout the Province; and, in February 1907, he submitted a report showing the progress made up to that date in connection with this inquiry. Mr. Gupta subsequently proceeded on six months' leave, and, during this period, he was placed on special duty to study in Europe and America various important questions connected with fishery administration, and specially the measures which are there taken to improve, by artificial means, the natural supply of fish. The result of these inquiries is embodied in his report dated the 27th January 1908.

In his two reports Mr. Gupta has made numerous recommendations which are receiving the careful attention of Government. Some of them are of a tentative nature, and further inquiry is necessary before definite action is taken. A steam trawler has been obtained with a view to carrying on the work of exploration and investigation in the Bay of Bengal. It is hoped by this means to ascertain where the more valuable bottom fish congregate, and where and at what seasons the shoals of migratory fish appear. Mr. Gupta's services being no longer available, Mr. A. Ahmad was appointed Commissioner of Fisheries towards the close of the year.

BUILDINGS.

Imperial works.

64. The principal Imperial works which were in hand during the year were the residences for the staff of His Excellency the Viceroy in Wellesley Place, Calcutta, and the new buildings for the Department of Mines at Dhanbaid.

Provincial works.

65. As regards Provincial works, the year was one of notable activity. A new Court-house for the District Magistrate was under construction at Howrah. Four new courts for Judges were under construction, and in another district very extensive additions and alterations to the Judge's Court were started.

The High Court extension was nearly completed. For the Jail Department the new Presidency Jail buildings at Alipore were nearly completed, and 13 projects for enlargement or improvement of Central

or District Jails were carried out or in progress. For the Police Department a very large amount of work was done; in particular the Police Training College at Doranda (Ranchi) was practically completed and was formally opened by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor in November 1907.

The principal educational works on which progress was made during the year were hostels for the Patna and Midnapore Colleges and the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, and also for the Chapra and Puri Zilla Schools.

Among Medical buildings the improvements and enlargements of the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta, were proceeded with, and the Paying Patients' Block at the Presidency General Hospital was nearly completed.

Three Cottage wards were constructed in connection with the Victoria Zenana Hospital in Calcutta, and were formally opened by Her Excellency Lady Minto, and a Maternity ward and Nurses' quarters were under construction.

COMMUNICATIONS.

66. In the Darjeeling district the New High Level Tista Valley Road, 17 miles in length, was nearly completed, and the portion from the Kalijhora Bridge to Reang Bridge was opened for traffic in February 1908. The entire length is expected to be opened for traffic by the end of July 1908.

Considerable progress was made in opening out new and improving existing lines of communication in the Sambalpur district; also in improving the communications between Cuttack, Native States and Sambalpur.

Important improvements were also in progress in the Chota Nagpur Division.

Arboricultural operations were in rapid progress along important provincial roads throughout the province of Bengal, and nurseries were opened in many places.

MISCELLANEOUS PUBLIC IMPROVEMENTS.

Calcutta.

67. At Dalhousie Square Park the equestrian statue of Sir John Woodburn, late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, was erected, and the stone balustrade with a ghât on the west side of the tank was completed.

The re-arrangement of the tramway loops on the north-east corner of the Calcutta Maidan has been authorized, and the erection of an ornamental passenger-shed over the loops and the laying out of the ground with the object of making it harmonize with the remainder of Curzon Gardens is under consideration.

The drainage of the south-east portion of the Calcutta Maidan was improved by the Calcutta Corporation at an estimated cost of Rs. 71,887, of which Government contributed Rs. 49,416.

Cuttack.

68. A telephone exchange was established at Cuttack with 19 connections between certain Government offices and official residential buildings.

RAILWAYS.

Administration.

69. There are seven small railways, which have been constructed by private enterprise, and which are in some measure under the control

of this Government. The larger railway systems are controlled by the Railway Board.

70. The total mileage of railways in this province on the 1st April 1908 was 4,347 miles. During the year 236 miles were opened, of which $2\frac{3}{4}$ miles were on the standard gauge, $160\frac{3}{4}$ on the metre gauge and $72\frac{1}{4}$ on the 2′ 6″ gauge. **Mileage.**

71. The line between Partabganj and Khanwa Ghât on the Tirhut Section had to be abandoned owing to breaches caused by the Kosi river, and it has been decided to locate a new line from Partabganj to Beerpore. **Abandonment of lines opened for traffic.**

72. There are no main lines under survey in this province, but the East Indian, the Bengal and North-Western, the Bengal-Nagpur and the Eastern Bengal State Railways have completed surveys, and have also surveys in progress for branch lines. **Surveys.**

73. Messrs. Martin & Co. have submitted proposals for the construction of a Light Railway from Arrah to Sasaram, in the Shahabad district. **Light Railways.**

CANALS.

74. The area irrigated during the year by the Midnapore, Orissa and Sone Canals was 1,000,466 acres, an increase of 108,651 acres over the figure of the previous year. The increase occurred on the two last-named canals. The other productive canal in the province, the Hijli Tidal Canal, is a navigation work only. **Irrigation.**

75. The total receipts from the four canals from irrigation, navigation and miscellaneous sources amounted to Rs. 23,44,801, or Rs. 56,292 in excess of the year 1906-1907. **Receipts.**

76. Of the two protective works, the Dhaka Canal was nearly completed during the year, and was in use, irrigating 12,824 acres and bringing in a revenue of Rs. 17,808 from all sources. On the Tribeni Canal the progress of work was unexpectedly slow, and certain alterations to the sluice head were found to be necessary. The opening of the first 40 miles as far as the Masan river, which, it was hoped, would have taken place during the year, had therefore to be deferred. **Protective works.**

EMBANKMENTS AND DRAINAGE WORKS.

77. On embankments and drainage works Rs. 4,89,585 and Rs. 4,54,227, respectively, were spent during the year. **Embankments and Drainage works.**

CHAPTER V.

REVENUE AND FINANCE.

IMPERIAL FINANCE.

78. The Imperial receipts amounted to Rs. 13,30,62,900, and the charges to Rs. 3,12,17,186, in both cases showing a decrease on the figures of the previous year. The decrease in receipts was most noticeable under the heads Land Revenue, Opium and Salt, while there were increases under Stamps, Excise, Customs and Assessed Taxes. There was

a marked decrease in expenditure under the head *Opium*, owing to smaller payments to cultivators in consequence of the reduced outturn. A sum of Rs. 6,73,520 was spent in Darbhanga under the head Famine Relief.

CUSTOMS.

General Results.

79. The net revenue from Customs amounted to 332·06 lakhs, showing a fall of 5·4 per cent. as compared with the previous year. The decrease is attributed to the reduction of the import duty on salt and to the smaller exports of rice consequent on a poor harvest in the province. The import revenue from sources other than salt, however, show a marked increase of 40·79 lakhs, to which liquors, metals, oils and cotton goods mainly contributed. The net aggregate value of the imports and exports was largely in excess of that for the previous year, in spite of the fact that trade in the latter half of the year was adversely affected by a poor harvest and by the American financial crisis.

Merchandise Marks Act.

80. The number of cases dealt with under the Act was smaller than that in the preceding year. German firms were responsible for the majority of such cases, the commonest offence being the marking of goods in a manner indicative of British origin without any counter-indication.

OPIUM.

General aspects.

81. In accordance with the orders of the Government of India, steps were taken to further reduce the total area of poppy cultivation in the opium season 1907-1908. The area actually cultivated in the official year 1907-1908 amounted to 792,823 bighas, viz., 201,981 bighas in the Bihar and 590,842 bighas in the Benares Agency, against 903,336 bighas in 1906-1907, viz., 283,379 bighas in the Bihar and 619,957 bighas in the Benares Agency. Owing to unfavourable weather and the reduction in the area of cultivation, the outturn of opium, as well as the consistence of the drug, during the opium season 1906-1907, was low.

The quantity of provision opium manufactured during the opium season 1907-1908 was 40,001 chests, which, added to the number remaining from the stock of 1906-1907, viz., 26,132, brings the total number available for sale during 1909 to 66,133. From this stock, after the sales of 1909, there will remain a reserve of 22,933 chests on the 1st January 1910, viz., 14,105 chests of Bihar and 8,828 chests of Benares opium. Besides this quantity, there are more than 15,000 maunds of unmanufactured opium lying in the vats at the factories.

The average prices obtained per chest amounted to Rs. 1,368 for Bihar and Rs. 1,333 for Benares opium, against Rs. 1,439 and Rs 1,343, respectively, during the year 1906-1907. The net revenue derived from opium was Rs. 4,47,20,294, against Rs. 4,80,97,317 in the year 1906-1907. The decrease was a necessary result of the policy of reduction adopted by Government.

SALT.

General.

82. The most important questions which engaged the attention of Government during the year related to (1) the proposed amendment of the Indian Salt Act of 1882, which is in force in the saliferous tracts of the province, combined with the repeal of the Bengal Salt Act of 1864; and (2) the selection of a site for providing new accommodation

for the storage of salt in lieu of the accommodation to be vacated in the Kidderpore Dock Golas, in consequence of the development of the docks. The latter proposal involves the construction of new golas which are estimated to cost Government over 19 lakhs.

The year witnessed a continued increase in the imports of foreign salt and of Madras salt by land into Orissa. The transactions in salt at the Sulkea and Kidderpore Salt Golas were the highest on record. Retail prices in the province showed an average decline from one anna and one pie per seer in 1906-1907 to eleven pies a seer in 1907-1908. This decrease is due to the reduction of the duty on salt from Re. 1-8 to Re. 1 per maund. The marked decrease in the number of seizures of illicit salt and in the number of prosecutions under the Salt laws is also chiefly due to the reduction in the duty and the consequent cheapening of licit salt. The net revenue derived from salt, which is wholly Imperial, was 104 lakhs.

EXCISE.

Administrative Changes.

83. Among the chief administrative changes which took effect during the year may be mentioned the extension of the contract system of supplying country spirit to the districts or parts of the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum, Bankura, Hooghly, Howrah, Nadia, Manbhum; to certain subdivisions in the 24-Parganas, the Sonthal Parganas and the district of Hazaribagh; and to the distillery area of Sambalpur. The main features of the system are the concentration of the preparation of liquor in the hands of a few contractors, the supply of liquor at fixed strengths and prices, and the separation of manufacture and retail vend. The advantages claimed for the system are that it ensures the supply of liquor at a low and constant price for a specified period, with the result that accurate and profitable taxation is facilitated.

Rates of duty.

84. The rates of duty in contract areas, including the subdivisions of Kulna and Asansol in the Burdwan district, were revised during the year. In the distillery tracts of Patna, Gaya, Muzaffarpur, Saran and Champaran the rate of duty in the urban areas was raised by eight annas per gallon, the existing rate being retained in the rural areas. The rate of duty in Calcutta was also raised from Rs. 5 to Rs. 5-10 per gallon.

Liquor trade in Calcutta.

85. A Special Committee was appointed at the end of 1907 to examine certain important questions connected with the liquor trade in Calcutta. The report of the Commitee was considered after the close of the year. The recommendations made and the action taken by Government have been published.

Ranchi Distillery.

86. During the year complaints having been received of drunkenness in Ranchi, it was decided that a distillery should be established in the town, and certain thanas brought under the distillery system. A number of outstills in remote parts of the district were also closed.

Import of Novocaine.

87. Orders were issued during the year by the Government of India prohibiting the bringing by sea or by land into British India of novocaine by means of the post and restricting its importation by any other means to persons specially permitted by the Local Government.

The rate of duty on locally manufactured beer was raised from one anna to two annas per Imperial gallon.

Amendment of the Excise Law.

88. Further steps were taken during the year for the amendment of the Excise law for the province, the proposals for which had been held in abeyance pending the orders of the Government of India on the recommendations of the Indian Excise Committee. A revised Bill was prepared and submitted to the Government of India.

STAMPS.

Statistics.

89. The revenue collected under both the Stamp and Court Fees Acts amounted to Rs. 1,51,17,649, against Rs. 1,47,06,682 in the previous year. The increase occurred chiefly under judicial stamps, and is attributed to larger resort to the Civil Courts, to the payment of an increased amount of duty in probate and letters of administration cases, and to the gradual development of survey and settlement operations. There was a marked decrease in the number of prosecutions instituted for infringement of the provisions of the Stamp Act. This was partly due to the orders of the Board of Revenue enjoining on the Collector of Stamp Revenue, Calcutta, the exercise of special caution in instituting proceedings against existing members of firms for offences committed by their predecessors in office.

INCOME-TAX.

Statistics.

90. The number of persons assessed and the amount of tax collected showed an increase of 2,017 persons and Rs. 3,22,199 over the figures of the previous year. The increase occurred under the four main classes, *viz.*, "salaries," "profits of companies," "interest on securities," and "other sources of income." Calcutta alone contributed 61·6 per cent. of the increase, the result being attributed to the greater prosperity of the jute, coal and banking business, to the formation of new companies, to increase of establishment on the railways and in mercantile offices, and to larger issues of debentures.

PROVINCIAL FINANCE.

Provincial Finance.

91. The year opened with a balance of Rs. 93,84,443 and closed with one of Rs. 70,28,680, the result being a deficit of Rs. 23,55,763. The receipts amounted to Rs. 5,21,79,808, against Rs. 5,03,57,082 in 1906-1907, and the charges to Rs. 5,45,35,571, against Rs. 2,52,34,537 in the preceding year. There was an increase of receipts under Land Revenue Adjustments, due to larger grants from the Imperial Revenues, as also under all the other principal heads of revenue owing to progressive increase of revenue. The increase of expenditure is largely due to the heavy payments on account of grain compensation allowance in the several departments. Additional reforms recommended by the Police Commission entailed larger expenditure under the head of Police. Larger grants were also made under the head of Education to local colleges and schools.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

Financial Statement in Council.

92. The sixteenth Provincial Financial Statement was laid before the local Council on the 21st March, and discussed on the 4th of April. Previous to laying the statement before Council, two informal meetings were held in February and March, with certain non-official members, in accordance with the system inaugurated in the previous year.

MISCELLANEOUS.

93. As a result of the recommendation of the Ministerial Officers' Salaries Committee, the Lieutenant-Governor at first sanctioned the appointment of a Controller of Office Systems for six months. The sanction of the Secretary of State has since been received to the continuance of this appointment for a period of five years. The principal duties of this officer will be the thorough reorganization of the record-rooms and the office systems in the local offices in the province, and the initiation of important reforms in the training of ministerial officers. **Continuance of temporary appointment of Controller of Office Systems.**

94. An important concession to local bodies was made during the year in abolishing the payment of audit and banking fees hitherto charged to Municipalities, District and Local Boards, Cantonments and other local bodies in the province. The change has been made at the expense of the General Revenues. **Abolition of the Audit and Banking Fees.**

95. A grievance long felt by officials residing in Calcutta was removed to a considerable extent by the grant of house-rent allowances, subject to certain conditions and limits, to a large number of Gazetted officers. **Calcutta House Allowance Scheme.**

96. Hitherto the Presidency Jail Press has been worked by the Deputy Superintendent thereof under the dual control of the Superintendent, Government Printing, Bengal, and the Superintendent of the Presidency Jail. This arrangement was pronounced unsatisfactory by a Committee specially appointed by Government to consider the question; and on their recommendation both the Jail Press and the Forms Branch have now been placed under a separate Manager, who will act as a Deputy Superintendent in the Jail Department and will be subordinate to the Inspector-General of Prisons through the Superintendent of the Jail. **Separation of the Jail Press and Forms Branch from the control of the Superintendent of Government Printing.**

CHAPTER VI.

VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

VITAL STATISTICS.

97. The climatic conditions of the year were on the whole unfavourable. The rainfall was not only below the normal throughout the greater part of the province, but was very unequally distributed, and ceased at an unusually early date. **Climatic conditions.**

98. To judge by the total number of deaths, which amounted to 1,906,192, as compared with 1,823,243 in 1906-1907, the year was a very unhealthy one. The number of births, on the other hand, rose from 1,885,725 to 1,905,425. The rise in the mortality was chiefly due to the greater ravages of fever, which accounted for more than 60 per cent. of the total deaths from all causes. The report of the Special Committee appointed in the previous year to enquire into the drainage conditions of the Presidency Division and their connexion with the prevalence of malaria was received during the year, and special steps were taken to give effect to the principal recommendations made. The number of deaths from cholera was the largest recorded since 1901 **Births and Deaths.**

while plague also claimed a larger number of victims than in the previous year.

PREVENTION OF MALARIA.

Resolution on the Report of the Bengal Drainage Committee.

99. The Drainage Committee appointed for the Presidency Division having recommended a systematic and continuous enquiry into the causes of malaria and the extent to which it prevails, a specially selected officer of the Indian Medical Service, with a suitable staff, has been deputed for a period of six months to conduct such an enquiry. The question of creating a special Engineering Division for the examination of the drainage conditions of specified areas, which is also recommended by the Committee, is still under consideration. A scheme for the deputation of a large number of Civil Hospital Assistants during the fever season to distribute medical aid in specially malarious tracts in the Presidency Division was sanctioned. A leaflet containing instructions for self-treatment with quinine and stating where the pice-packet could be obtained was widely distributed.

The experiment of employing a professional agency in a selected area to ascertain the actual causes of the deaths registered, in order to test the accuracy of the registration of vital statistics in rural areas, which was begun in August 1906 in the Galsi thana of the Burdwan district, was continued during the year.

PLAGUE.

Plague.

100. Plague again claimed an increased number of victims, though fewer than in 1905. More than 90 per cent. of the mortality from this disease occurred in the Patna Division, where the outbreak was most virulent from January to May.

Of the measures adopted to combat the epidemic, evacuation of houses continued to be the measure chiefly relied on, and most largely resorted to, by the people themselves. There is reason to believe that the prejudice against inoculation is becoming weaker, a much larger number of persons having adopted this form of protection during the year. Chemical disinfection has been practically abandoned. Rat-extermination was carried on in several places with comparative success, the incidence of plague being reported as less severe than in other localities where no such measures were taken. During the year the Lieutenant-Governor convened a special Conference to consider the most appropriate lines of action, in view of the experience of the last ten years; and as a result a special leaflet was drawn up by the Sanitary Commissioner and distributed, after translation into the several vernaculars, throughout the plague-affected portions of the province.

Patna Plague Conference.

EMIGRATION.

Colonial Emigration.

101. There was no change during the year in the number of emigration agencies at work. Owing to the continued high prices of food-grains in the recruiting districts, there was no difficulty in obtaining recruits, but a decreased demand for labour led to a very large decrease in the number of emigrants requisitioned and despatched. This falling off

was particularly marked in the case of Natal, to which only 456 emigrants were despatched, as compared with 3,640 in the previous year

Returning emigrants brought back with them to India over seven lakhs of rupees, the average being Rs. 178. Large sums are, however, yearly remitted by money-order. From Natal alone the total amount of such remittances during the year under review came to very nearly 10 lakhs of rupees.

Inland Emigration.

102. With regard to Inland Emigration, important orders were passed based on the recommendations of the Assam Labour Enquiry Commission, 1906. Free recruiting under section 92 of Act VI of 1901 was prohibited throughout the province; recruiting by means of contractors and recruiters under Chapter III of the Act was put an end to in the Patna and Bhagalpur Divisions, and with a view to the encouragement of recruiting through genuine garden sardars, certain concessions were granted to the Tea Districts Labour Supply Association by which the local agents of the Association were authorised to forward emigrants without producing them before a Magistrate, the necessary checks being secured by the submission of complete lists of emigrants and by the placing of increased responsibility on the local agents. It was decided that emigrants recruited in Native States must be registered in the first British district which they enter. This decision, it is hoped, will put a stop to abuses which were becoming serious.

MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

103. The year's working showed considerable progress as compared with the two previous years. The number of patients admitted was 351, the highest figure since 1903. The financial condition of the institution also improved, the income rising by Rs. 12,796-3-3 as compared with the preceding year.

Lunatic Asylums.

104. There was a slight increase during the year in the number of lunatics under detention in the several asylums in the province, the number being 852 at the close of 1907, as compared with 836 at the close of 1906. There was a very marked improvement in the general health of the inmates, the number of admissions to hospital falling from 850 to 555, the most remarkable reduction taking place at Berhampore Asylum, where 363 lunatics were admitted to hospital, against 681 in the previous year. This decrease has properly been ascribed to the numerous sanitary improvements carried out at this institution by an energetic Superintendent. Suitable arrangements have now been made at the several asylums for the segregation and separate treatment of patients suffering from tuberculosis. The total death-rate on average strength was lower than that recorded in several other provinces, and was even less than the rate in the County and Borough asylums in England in 1906.

Establishment of a Lunatic Asylum at Ranchi for European Lunatics.

105. The Manual of Rules for Lunatic Asylums was very carefully revised during the year by Major Robertson-Milne. A Special Committee was also appointed by Government to examine the Lunatic Asylums Act and the procedure under it. The revised scheme for the establishment at Ranchi of Central Asylums, both for Europeans and for Indians, was still under the consideration of this Government and of the Government of India.

HOSPITALS AND DISPENSARIES.

Calcutta Medical Institutions.

106. Most of the important structural improvements in the large hospitals in Calcutta which were in progress during 1906 were completed during the year and a few were still in progress. Extensions and improvements of far-reaching chara cter have now been carried out a heavy cost to Government in the Calcutta hospitals; and these institutions have now been largely brought up to the standard of modern requirements. The number of patients treated in all the hospitals in Calcutta was 28,721 in-door and 288,040 out-door, against 28,136 and 271,078, respectively, in the previous year.

Increase in the Nursing staff of the various Hospitals in Calcutta.

107. The Lieutenant-Governor's special attention was directed to the question of the re-organization of the nursing arrangements at the Presidency General and the Medical College Hospitals, in view of the large extensions and improvements that have been carried out at these institutions; and since the close of the year a Committee has been appointed to enquire into and report on the matter.

In order to remove the insanitary condition of the surroundings of the Campbell Hospital, Sealdah, and provide room for the extension of the hospital, the area known as Haritolla Basti adjoining the hospital was acquired, and steps are being taken to further extend and improve the arrangements at this hospital.

Small-pox, which prevailed in an epidemic form in 1906, declined towards the end of June 1907, the number of admissions to the hospital from this disease in 1907 being only half that of the previous year. The majority of the cases were treated in the Campbell Hospital. A larger number of cholera and plague cases were treated in the hospitals than in the previous year, but there was a decrease in the number of cases of tuberculosis. Thirty cases of *beri-beri* were admitted during the year, resulting in seven deaths. The disease occurred in an epidemic form in the Alipore Reformatory School.

Mufassal Dispensaries.

108. The number of dispensaries outside the town of Calcutta rose from 578 in 1906 to 587. The system of deputing Medical officers in charge of dispensaries to visit outlying market centres for the purpose of administering medical aid was followed in many districts with satisfactory results. The floating dispensary which was started in Cuttack proved useful, but a similar institution which was established at Khulna failed and was eventually closed. The total number of in-door and out-door patients treated were 63,379 and 4,013,446, against 61,647 and 3,874,079, respectively, in 1906. The unhealthiness of the year had an important bearing on the increased attendance, but a large proportion of the increase may be attributed to the improved conditions of the dispensaries.

SANITATION.

Sanitation.

109. Considerable attention was paid during the year by both District Boards and Municipalities to the promotion of sanitary measures. In the case of Municipalities the expenditure on works of sanitation increased by more than four lakhs of rupees. There is still, however, room for much gr ater activity in this direction, especially by District Boards in the case of ru al areas. In consequence of the large number of septic tank installations in the riparian Municipalities on both sides

of the Hooghly, it has been decided to appoint a special Inspector whose duty it will be to visit and inspect these installations periodically and take samples of the effluent for bacteriological examination. It is hoped that this measure will minimise the danger of pollution to the river.

VACCINATION.

Vaccination.

110. Notwithstanding the prevalence of high prices during the year and the consequent reluctance on the part of the poorer classes to offer their children for vaccination owing to their inability to pay the fees, steady progress was on the whole made with vaccination. In Cuttack district, vaccination was given free to those who were unable to pay for it. In order to prevent the deterioration of lymph, it is now supplied direct to the vaccinators from the Calcutta Depôt. Owing to the abnormally high mortality from small-pox in Orissa, special measures have been adopted for pushing vaccination in that part of the province, and a special Inspector has been appointed for the Division.

Rewards to Vaccinators.

111. The system of granting rewards to vaccinators for good work having proved a success during the last two years in which it was introduced experimentally, its continuance as a permanent measure was sanctioned.

PASTEUR INSTITUTE.

Grant of concessions to Government servants and private persons for treatment at the Pasteur Institute.

112. To assist and encourage persons to proceed to a Pasteur Institute for treatment when bitten by a rabid animal, it was decided that in the case of officers in receipt of not more than Rs. 500 a month whose absence necessitates the appointment of a substitute, the period of absence up to one month should be treated as extra privilege leave, and not as casual leave. In order to expedite the treatment of persons bitten, certain officers of Government were empowered to make grants to their subordinates when bitten by a rabid animal to enable them to proceed at once to a Pasteur Institute for treatment.

CHAPTER VII.

INSTRUCTION.

113. As regards educational matters the year was one of notable progress as regards the completion of schemes of reform, the necessity for which had long been recognized.

Among the most important of these reforms are the formation of a Joint Board for the provinces of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam for controlling the Sanskrit First, Second and Title Examinations: the final separation of the cadres of the Educational service in the two provinces: and the transfer to Government service under the Education Department of the Sub-Inspectors of Schools who had hitherto been under the District Boards.

Governing bodies for Government Colleges and High Schools were constituted, and arrangements made for the opening of training classes for graduate teachers leading up to the degree of Bachelor of Teaching to be called the David Hare Training College, and to work with the Hare and Hindu Schools as its practising schools. These classes were opened in July 1908. The question of Muhammadan education was fully threshed out in a very important Conference held in Calcutta in the cold weather of 1907-1908. The recommendations of this Conference will, it is hoped, have far reaching effects on the education of Muhammadans in all its stages.

The scheme for opening a residential Arts College at Ranchi received the sanction of the Secretary of State during the year.

Mr. J. G. Cumming, I.C.S., was on special duty for six months in connection with the whole question of industrial development and technical education in Bengal. His report was received after the close of the year. Mr. E. R. Watson of the Indian Educational Service was also deputed to make enquiries with regard to specified industries and submitted valuable reports. A Joint Technical Examination Board for the provinces of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam was constituted during the year to control the Overseer and Sub-Overseer Examinations. The scheme for opening a central scheme of weaving at Serampore received the sanction of the Secretary of State in April 1907, but its carrying out has been greatly delayed owing to difficulties with regard to the appointment of a Principal. These have been overcome since the close of the year. The amalgamation of the Hazaribagh and Alipore Reformatory Schools in one institution was sanctioned during the year and has been carried out since its close.

Among important questions which were under consideration during the year but which still await final orders are the appointment of a special adviser to Government with regard to industries and technical education, the improvement of Government colleges generally, the establishment of a departmental school final examination, and the general improvement of the Provincial Educational Service and of Secondary Education.

A training school for female teachers at Bankipur has been sanctioned, but awaits the appointment of the necessary staff.

Good progress was made during the year with the scheme for opening a *guru*-training school in every subdivision of the province.

REFORMATORY SCHOOLS.

Reformatory Schools.

114. One hundred and forty-four boys were admitted to the Reformatory Schools at Alipore and Hazaribagh in the year under review. The decrease in the number of punishments from 201 to 113 is evidence of a satisfactory improvement in discipline. *Beri-beri* broke out in epidemic form at Alipore, but only two cases out of a total of 50 ended fatally.

The boys were instructed as far as possible in their caste trades. At Alipore industrial work is taught, and 101 boys out of 135 who appeared passed the industrial examination. Instruction in farming and market-gardening was given at the Hazaribagh school. Out of 323 boys released from the schools during the three years preceding that under

review, 223 are reported to be leading honest lives, and 49 are untraced.

LITERATURE AND THE PRESS.

Publications.

115. The number of publications received and catalogued in the Bengal Library during 1907 was 2,995, against 3,440 in the previous year; of the total, 2,091 were books and 904 periodicals. The new spirit of industrial and commercial enterprise was not without its influence on the literature of the year. Numerous hand-books on industrial subjects and translations from European works dealing with industrial and technical education were published.

The number of vernacular newspapers at the close of the year was 90. With only a few exceptions, they continued to show an unreasoning hostility to Government. Eight prosecutions under section 124A of the Indian Penal Code were sanctioned by Government during the year, seven against vernacular newspapers, and one against *Bande Mataram*, a paper published in English. One case was withdrawn, as the editor died while under trial, and the manager and printer and publisher severed their connection with the paper and tendered an apology. In one case the editor of the *Yugantar* was convicted; and in the other six cases the printers and publishers were convicted.

CHAPTER VIII.

ARCHÆOLOGY.

116. During the year the surroundings of the ancient temple at Kanarak were put in order, and repairs were executed to a number of historical buildings, including those at Pandua and Tribeni.

CHAPTER IX.

MISCELLANEOUS.

CHEMICAL EXAMINER'S DEPARTMENT.

Analyses.

117. The number of analyses performed was much larger than in the previous year, due chiefly to the increased number of samples of "cocaine" received for examination from the Excise Department. The habitual adulteration practised in the case of milk and *ghee* is shown by the fact that three-fourths of the samples of milk examined were found to be diluted; and of the 40 samples of *ghee* examined, only 8 were found to be of good quality.

Medico-legal cases.

118. Poison was detected in more than 33 per cent. of the cases in which viscera of human beings were examined. As usual, the most common poison used was opium, arsenic coming next.

THE CIVIL VETERINARY DEPARTMENT, BENGAL.

Re-organisation.

119. The re organisation of the Civil Veterinary Department was rendered necessary, owing to the gradual expansion of the Department. The scheme received the final sanction of the Secretary of State during the year. The Department as at present constituted consists of—

(1) Officers of the Imperial Veterinary Department.

(2) Officers of the Provincial Veterinary Department.

(3) Subordinate Veterinary staff.

The scheme does not affect the Imperial cadre, which consists of one Superintendent and one Principal, Bengal Veterinary College.

As regards Provincial Department, nine appointments of Deputy Superintendents and thirty appointments of Inspectors have been sanctioned. The former have been graded as follows:—

	Rs.
Two posts on	250—15—400
Three ditto	200—10—250
Four ditto	150—10—200

One of the two Deputy Superintendents in the highest grade will be employed as Assistant Principal of the College, and a local allowance of Rs. 100 per mensem has been sanctioned for him.

The staff of 30 Inspectors has been divided into seven grades on pay ranging from Rs. 70 to Rs. 150 per mensem. Local allowances of Rs. 50 per mensem have been granted to the Chief Inspector under the Glanders and Farcy Act and to the Prosecuting Inspector under the Cruelty to Animals Act.

As regards the subordinate staff, before the re-organisation, less than 50 Veterinary Assistants were employed in Bengal. This number was considered entirely inadequate, and at the suggestion of the Government of India this Government has provided for the gradual formation of a subordinate staff capable ultimately of supplying every subdivision in the province with one stationary and one itinerary Veterinary Assistant. Providing 24 appointments as leave reserve or 10 per cent. on the total strength of the cadre of the Provincial and subordinate staffs, the total number of Veterinary Assistants has been fixed at 229. The subordinate staff will be paid on a time scale similar to that sanctioned in the case of Medical Hospital Assistants.

The entire cost of the scheme, so far as it relates to the Provincial and subordinate staffs, will ultimately amount to Rs. 2,08,520 per annum, which represents an increased expenditure of Rs. 1,48,881 a year. The cost of the new staff will be distributed between Provincial Revenues and Local Funds in certain specified proportions. The scheme will be developed gradually as funds and trained men become available. The service has been made pensionable.

ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS, CALCUTTA.

Administration.

120. The popularity of the Gardens continues to increase.

The scheme for extending the Gardens by adding a part of the grounds of the Kidderpore Orphanage has not yet been carried into effect owing to legal difficulties which have arisen. This matter is still under consideration.

PART II.

THE REPORT.

LIBRARY
OF THE
BOMBAY BRANCH
OF THE
ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1907-1908.

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Map of Bengal.

ADMINISTRATION OF BENGAL, 1907-1908.

CHAPTER I.—PHYSICAL AND POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.

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PHYSICAL FEATURES OF THE COUNTRY, AREA, CLIMATE AND CHIEF STAPLES.

HISTORICAL SUMMARY.

FORM OF ADMINISTRATION.

CHARACTER OF LAND TENURES, SYSTEM OF SURVEYS AND SETTLEMENTS.

CIVIL DIVISIONS OF BRITISH TERRITORY.

DETAILS OF THE LAST CENSUS, TRIBES AND LANGUAGES.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGES 1—160.

Changes in the Administration.

Redistribution of the Patna Division.

The question of dividing the Patna Division into two Commissioners' charges had been under consideration for some time. Towards the end of the year, the scheme was formally published in order to afford to the public an opportunity of submitting criticisms and suggestions. Such expressions of opinion as were received indicated that public feeling was generally in favour of the measure, and the Government of India were requested to move the Secretary of State to sanction the scheme. This has since been done.

FORMATION OF ADVISORY COUNCILS AND ENLARGEMENT OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCILS.

2. The proposals made by the Government of India for forming Imperial and Provincial Advisory Councils and for enlarging Legislative Councils engaged the careful attention of Government during the year. Certain public bodies and individuals were consulted, and their opinions, together with that of the Local Government, were submitted to the Government of India.

JURISDICTION.

Creation of the Siliguri Subdivision.

3. In order to avoid the frequent necessity of investing each successive Deputy Magistrate posted to Siliguri with powers under different sections of the Criminal Procedure Code, and for other administrative

purposes, the portion of the district of Darjeeling which is comprised within the thana of Siliguri, including the outposts of Naxalbari, Phansidewa and Kharibari, has been declared, under section 8 (1) of the Code, to be a subdivision, with head-quarters at Siliguri, with effect from the 15th May 1907.

Relations with Tributary States and Frontier affairs.

COOCH BEHAR.

[See the Annual Administration Report of the State for 1907-1908.]

[Area—1,307 square miles: chief products, rice, jute and tobacco: population 566,979: Revenue, Rs. 25,04,522: Military force, 294 men and four guns. No change in the ruling Chief since last year. Family of Tibetan or Dravidian origin: residence Cooch Behar: heir-apparent, Maharaj-Kumar Raj Rajendra Narayan.]

Work of the State Council.

4. The council held 31 meetings, against 25 in the previous year. It disposed of 57 cases and 3 were left pending at the close of the year.

Judicial. Legislative.

5. Forty-three meetings were held on this side, against 33 of last year. His Highness the Maharaja presided at 18 meetings. The Cooch Behar Penal Code and an Act to amend the Cooch Behar Stamp Act, I of 1903, were passed into law during the year.

Executive. General.

6. On its executive side, which includes (1) general, (2) financial and (3) State Railway and Miscellaneous, the Council dealt with many important matters. The sinking of a number of tube-wells in the State was sanctioned as a protection against cholera. At a *kheda* operation ten elephants were captured. The negotiations with a French Company for starting a cigarette factory noticed in previous year's report fell through, but efforts to improve the cultivation of tobacco continued and were so far successful that the Peninsular Tobacco Company bought up the whole crop of the year at Rs. 15 per maund.

Negotiations for the conversion of the Cooch Behar State Railway into metre gauge have been completed, and the working of the line by the Eastern Bengal State Railway has been sanctioned by the Government of India.

Owing to the unfavourable distribution of rainfall the outturn of rice and jute was not up to the average. The price of common rice varied from Rs. 4 to Rs. 6 per maund. Owing to the unsteady state of the jute market there has been a considerable contraction of the area under jute cultivation. The condition of the land-owning and cultivating classes continued to be prosperous, but the high price of food-grains affected persons with small fixed incomes.

Financial.

7. The revenue rose from 24¾ lakhs to over 25 lakhs. The total expenditure was nearly 25 lakhs, or nearly Rs. 74,000 more than last year. The closing cash balance was Rs. 8,93,399 or Rs. 35,000 more than that of the previous year.

A provident fund has been started for teachers of lower schools whose service is not pensionable and bonus and grain compensation allowance have been granted to all low-paid ministerial officers and menial servants.

Criminal Justice.

8. The total number of cases fell from 3,376 to 3,249, showing a decrease of 127 cases. The percentage of conviction in cognizable and non-cognizable cases fell from 72·28 and 72·13 to 70·93 and 70·27, respectively. The number of cases of heinous crime was small.

Education.

9. The number of Primary and Secondary schools rose from 305 to 318 and the number of pupils attending them rose from 11,102 to 11,658. There were 13 girls' schools with 431 pupils on their rolls. The result of the University examinations was fair. Out of 9 sent up for the B.L., 3 passed out; of 67 sent up for the B.A., 22 passed; and out of 55 sent up for the F.A., 21 passed. Out of 25 sent up for the Entrance Examination, 23 passed.

Maharaja's family.

10. The health of the Maharaja's eldest son, Maharaj-Kumar Raj Rajendra Narayan, gave cause for some anxiety, and he proceeded under medical advice for a tour round the world. Two of his other sons also left India—one to complete his education at Cambridge University, and the other to join the Cornell University in America to undergo a thorough training in agriculture.

11. The state of the public health was normal. There was a slight increase in cholera and small-pox. Efforts are being made to combat the former by the introduction of tube-wells on the hire-purchase system on certain conditions approved by the Maharaja. The Ardhodaya Yoga passed off without evil results. The number of pilgrims was much smaller than was expected, and there was no outbreak of cholera such as occurred on former occasions when this festival was celebrated. Health.

POLITICAL STATES OF CHOTA NAGPUR.

[Report on these States for 1907-1908 by the Commissioner of Chota Nagpur.]

12. The Seraikela State was in charge of its Chief, but Kharsawan continued under Government management. The area of these States is 602 square miles and their population 141,079. The total receipts in Seraikela were Rs. 1,06,122 and Kharsawan Rs. 51,149, the corresponding figures for last year being Rs. 1,22,520 and Rs. 41,912, respectively. General.

13. Owing to the untimely cessation of the rains there was a partial failure of the rice crop in both the States. No coercive measures were taken for the realisation of arrear rents in either of the States. The settlement operations in the States were concluded during the year. Land Revenue.

14. The material condition of the people was generally good, as those in want of labour found employment on the railway line passing through the States and on other works, while lac and tassar cocoons yielded a good profit. Material condition of the people.

15. The public health was generally good. An outbreak of cholera caused a few deaths in Kharsawan and Seraikela. There was an increase in the number of patients treated in the State dispensaries due to the growing popularity of these institutions. Vaccination operations, however, decreased in both the States. Public Health and Medecal.

16. The revenue derived from forests rose by Rs. 5,612, the increase being due to the increased sale of fuel. The revenue from excise was the same as that of the preceding year. Forests and Excise.

17. There was a slight increase in the jail population of Seraikela. As soon as funds permit, a new *pucca* jail will be built on a better site in this State. The number of pupils in Seraikela increased by 293, while in Kharsawan the number of primary schools and of the pupils attending them declined. Jails and Education.

18. The conduct of the Police in the States was fairly good. There was a decrease in both the States in the number of persons brought to trial. The decrease was most marked in offences under Chapters X, XVI and XVII of the Indian Penal Code. The result of appeals before the Deputy Commissioner of Singhbhum was satisfactory. Police and Crime.

TRIBUTARY AND FEUDATORY STATES OF ORISSA.

[Report on these States for 1907-1908 by the Commissioner and Superintendent of the Tributary Mahals, Orissa.]

19. These States are dealt with by a Political Agent subordinate to the Commissioner of Orissa. The aggregate area of this group of States is 28,046 square miles and their population 3,173,395. The gross revenue was Rs. 41,22,382, the corresponding figures for last year being Rs. 38,45,236. General.

20. The States of Bonai, Hindol, Kalahandi, Nayagarh, Nilgiri and Rehrakhol continued under Government management during the year. Owing to the abdication of its Chief, Keonjhar was brought under Government management. Baramba, Narsingpur and Pal Lahera were released during the year. The Lieutenant-Governor visited several of the States in November 1907. Administration.

21. The land revenue administration of the States was satisfactory and shows some improvement on previous years. Collections were on the whole prompt and punctual. Recourse was seldom had to the sale of moveable property in order to enforce payment of land revenue. Settlement operations were in progress in Patna, Sonpur, Gangpur and Boad. The paucity Land Revenue and Finance.

of Uriya-speaking officers necessitated a further postponement of the Bonai settlement. The financial position of nearly all the States is sound. With a few exceptions, the Chiefs adhered to the principle that the minimum reserve balance should be equivalent to three months' working expenditure.

Material condition of the people.

22. Although the agricultural season was unsatisfactory, the cultivating classes as a whole did not suffer much. Previous harvests had been good, stocks were ample and high prices encouraged exports. The pinch of scarcity was felt to a certain extent by the landless labourers and smaller cultivators, and in places affected by the floods relief had to be given in the shape of suspensions of revenue, takavi loans, &c.

Public health and medical.

23. The year on the whole was healthy except for outbreaks of fever in the inundated tracts, and outbreaks of small-pox and cholera at its close. In medical matters the year was one of progress. The dispensaries are growing in popularity. The number of vaccinations and revaccinations increased. The Leper Asylum at Moharbhanj was enlarged and did useful work.

Public works.

24. The States effected a remarkable increase (about 50 per cent.) in the expenditure on public works, the total expenditure being Rs. 7,96,922. The increase is most marked in Keonjhar. Twelve miles of new road were constructed in the Moharbhanj State.

Education.

25. Considerable progress was made in education. The number of boys attending schools in the States rose from 44,277 in the previous year to 89,712. There was also an increase in the number of schools. The expenditure on this branch of the administration is, however, still insufficient.

Forests.

26. The forest revenue in most of the States increased. Among the measures taken to improve the forest administration, are the reservation of forest areas, the adoption and enforcement of forest rules and the appointment of trained forest officers. The question of appointing a qualified forest officer to assist the Chiefs is under the consideration of Government.

Excise.

27. The excise income increased in 12 States, while in the remaining States, with one exception, there was a slight decrease. The revenue derived from stills and shops was good. A proposal is under the consideration of Government for the introduction of Rajshahi ganja into the Sambalpur district and into the States on that side.

Jails.

28. The development in this Department has been maintained. A new jail was built at Nayagarh and improvements effected in several other jails. Much attention was paid, specially in Bamra, to instruction in the use of the fly-shuttle loom among the prisoners.

Police and Crime.

29. The number of cases reported to the police rose from 7,298 to 8,824. The increase is partly due to the number of petty thefts in consequence of the high price of food-grains. There were serious outbreaks of dacoity in Kalahandi, Bamra, Bonai and Gangpur, but energetic measures were taken and the gangs broken up. In several States more trained and experienced police officers were introduced and a great improvement was effected by the introduction of co-operative meetings between the police of different States and of neighbouring British districts.

Administration of Justice.

30. The administration of criminal and civil justice was on the whole satisfactory. There has been some improvement in the promptitude with which cases were disposed of. Owing to a judicious use of sections 202 and 203 of the Criminal Procedure Code fewer persons were dragged into the Courts. The bulk of the civil litigation of the year was of a petty nature.

Condition of the people.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration, 1907-1908.]

General.

31. From an agricultural point of view the seasons were extremely unfavourable. Rainfall was generally deficient and badly distributed. There was excessive rain in some districts at the beginning of the monsoon, and some parts, especially in Orissa, suffered severely from unprecedented floods in August and September, which did incalculable damage to the *bhadoi* crop. The early cessation of the monsoon caused a failure of the winter rice crop in almost all parts of the Province and largely curtailed the cultivation of *rabi* crops.

Famine relief works had to be opened in several districts before the close of the year. There was a further rise in the price of food-grains, due principally to bad harvests. The high prices pressed most heavily on the poorer middle classes and persons with small fixed incomes.

In spite, however, of bad seasons, there is evidence of a continued rise in the standard of living, especially in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions, and even among the poorer classes in the rural areas. The consumption of tea and cigarettes and the use of country cloth is on the increase. In North Bihar the cultivation of sugarcane and jute is extending. Flax cultivation is being tentatively introduced into Bihar and results of experiments in this direction are reported to be encouraging. From the Presidency Division it is again reported that the *swadeshi* movement has given impetus to indigenous industries, more especially to the weaving industry. The economic outlook is hopeful in the towns and more progressive areas, and the continued rise in the standard of living indicates a growing prosperity.

Prices of food-grains.

32. The prices of food-grains everywhere ruled much higher than in the preceding year, except in Khulna and Purnea, where there was a slight fall in the price of common rice. In Darjeeling, the price of common rice was 6 seers and 13 chitaks per rupee, while, in Sambalpur, it was sold at 9 seers and 6 chitaks per rupee, which was the cheapest rate. The cheapest price of wheat during the year was 11 seers and 1½ chitak per rupee in Burdwan, and the dearest in Angul at the rate of 5 seers per rupee. The rise in prices is partly due to the general small outturn of the crops following a series of bad harvests and partly to exports. There was a fall in the price of salt throughout the province, except in Calcutta.

Wages.

33. The rise in the wages of labour was maintained during the year. There was a larger demand by collieries, mills, factories, brickfields and railways; consequently wages show an upward tendency, especially in the metropolitan districts of Hooghly and Howrah. Most of the labouring population in Hooghly and Howrah are recruited from up-country men and Uriyas, while the indigenous day labourers work in the fields and serve as village chaukidars. In the Patna Division, the labour market continues to show a tendency to rise. This is due to the rise in the prices of food-grains and to the greater demand for skilled labour in towns, mills and places where railway construction is in progress. The rise is also stated to be due to the emigration of the labouring classes to Bengal proper, Assam and elsewhere. In the Chota Nagpur Division the labour market was active throughout the year, and the wages of labourers there continued to rule high and to have an upward tendency.

FAMINE AND FLOODS.

34. Since the year 1903-1904 the outturn of the harvests had been short, and owing to this and other factors prices ranged very high in 1906-1907. The monsoon of 1907 aggravated the situation. Heavy rain in the first half of August filled the rivers and charged the rice-fields in Orissa. Then came a cyclonic disturbance and torrential rain fell from 19th to 21st August in the tract along the foot of the Orissa hills. On the 20th the Brahmini river came down in unprecedented flood, burst all the embankments on its left bank and inundated a vast tract of country in the district of Cuttack. The Baitarani and other rivers rose simultaneously and flooded the Bhadrak subdivision of the district of Balasore. For three weeks after the first flood there was a constant repetition of cyclonic storms with renewed flushes in the rivers. The areas most severely affected lay in the Jajpur and Kendrapara subdivisions of the district of Cuttack, and aggregated 510 square miles with a total population of 321,869 persons. In Balasore the area affected was 360 square miles with a population of about 180,000, but from about 300 square miles where the slopes are steep the flood subsided quickly and destruction of winter rice was confined to about 60 square miles. In both districts a large number of houses collapsed, but the loss of human life and cattle was small. Relief was promptly given by the distribution of food to the destitute. Takavi advances were given to the poorer cultivators to enable them to plant fresh seedlings of winter rice on the subsidence of the

floods. The amount of relief needed in Balasore was small. In Cuttack 6,153 maunds of food-grains were distributed and Rs. 46,404 were given out in loans.

The rains ceased in the last week of September, and there was practically no rain in October or November. Winter rice, by far the most important crop of the Province, failed totally except on low lands and in irrigated areas, while the absence of moisture in the soil greatly contracted the cultivation of *rabi* crops. The rain which fell in some parts in the middle of December was beneficial in so far as it assisted the seed already sown to germinate, but was too late and insufficient for any great extension of the area sown. Rain fell in the middle of January 1908 and greatly benefited the standing crops. The prospects in Bihar and Chota Nagpur were further improved by a slight fall in the beginning of February. Except in the districts of Palamau and Singhbhum, however, *rabi* is not of much importance in Chota Nagpur. In that Division much depended on the *mahua*, and unfortunately its outturn was unsatisfactory, especially in the district of Hazaribagh, where it varied from two to six annas.

The situation was complicated by the extraordinarily high prices of food-grains, and it was at first feared that distress would be very widespread. Happily this was not realised. The pinch of scarcity was no doubt felt throughout the Province, especially among the poorer *bhadralog* or people of good caste who depend for their support on small fixed wages; but actual distress was confined to a comparatively small area. In many districts the *bhadoi* crops had exceeded eight annas, and the *rabi*, which is of great importance in Bihar, added considerably to the food-supply. Owing largely, moreover, to the great industrial development which has taken place in Calcutta and its neighbourhood, and in the coal mines of Jheria and Raniganj, the ordinary demand for labour has vastly increased. Men from the affected districts therefore emigrated to a much larger extent than usual. Though this was much to be desired, it had the effect of increasing the volume of gratuitous relief, inasmuch as in many cases families were left without the means of support.

Much good was done by loans under the Land Improvement and Agriculturists' Loans Acts, which were freely given throughout the Province. During the year, test works and gratuitous relief were carried on in the districts of Bankura, Cuttack, Balasore, Puri and Ranchi, and on the 28th March 1908 the number on the former was 2,853, and on the latter 4,978, the total expenditure up to that date on wages and doles being Rs. 2,15,000. After the close of the year the distress spread, and Nadia, Jessore, Angul and Hazaribagh were added to the list of affected districts; gratuitous relief on a small scale was also found necessary in the districts of Burdwan and Singhbhum. It was subsequently found necessary to declare famine in an area of 2,261 square miles with a population of 237,367 persons in the district of Ranchi.

CHAPTER II.—ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Realisation of the Revenue.

[Report on the Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for the year 1907-1908.]

Collection of Land Revenue.

35. Details of the demand, collection and balance of general revenues for the first year are given in Chapter V. As regards the land revenue, the current demand was Rs. 2,87,45,098, or about half a lakh in excess of the demand for the preceding year. Bad harvests and high prices of food-grains told on the collections of the year, which were about four lakhs less than the current demand. The percentages of collections on demands were the lowest during the quinquennial period and the outstanding balances the highest. There was an increase of 842 in the total number of estates chiefly due to partitions.

Defaults and the sale law.

36. The sale law was, as usual, worked with lenieney. The total number of estates borne on the revenue rolls was 125,291. Out of 8,843 estates, shares and interests which became liable to sale for the non-payment of Government revenue, only 673, or 7·6 per cent., were actually sold for arrears amounting to Rs. 25,000. The purchase money realised was over 3½ lakhs. One hundred and three appeals were preferred to Commissioners of Divisions against the sale, of which 19 were successful, while Government annulled the sales in 18 cases on grounds of hardship. In order to lessen the chances of hardship in the case of estates owned by co-sharers whose shares are held in common, the Board of Revenue have issued instructions to District Officers to grant exemption from sale on the prepayment of a suitable fine in those cases in which it is considered that clemency is deserved.

Redemption of land revenue.

37. The number of petty estates of which the land revenue was redeemed during the year was 326. These were chiefly permanently-settled holdings in the Government estates in Calcutta and the suburbs. The total revenue demand was Rs. 948 and the price realised on redemption was Rs. 28,350.

Miscellaneous revenue.

38. The total receipts under the head of miscellaneous revenue, including collections from forest lands in Government estates, amounted to Rs. 3,97,992. The decrease of about a lakh from the previous year's figures was due to ordinary fluctuations, chiefly under the heads of value of revenue abated on account of lands required under Act I of 1894 and recovery of survey and settlement charges.

Sale of Government estates.

39. Twenty-three estates, covering an area of 161 acres, were sold during the year for Rs. 2,189, subject to a total Government revenue of Rs. 520; and five plots of land, with an area of 43 acres, were sold, free of revenue, at a total price of Rs. 8,090.

Payment of Revenue by money-orders.

40. The total amount of land revenue and cesses remitted by special money-orders was Rs. 17,07,574. The average value of an order fell from Rs. 7-4-9 in 1906-1907 to Rs. 7-0-6. The remittances exceeded Rs. 50,000 in sixteen districts and were more than a lakh in five districts.

Payment of rent by money-order.

41. The system of paying rent by money-order was in force throughout the province, except in the districts of Darjeeling, the Sonthal Parganas, Angul and the Chota Nagpur Division. Provision for the introduction of the system in the Chota Nagpur Division has been made in the Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act which has been passed since the close of the year. As stated in the Report for the year 1906-1907, the system is not much liked by the majority of the zamindars and their collecting staff, who are, in some cases, thereby deprived of the opportunity of levying additional interest and other exactions. Tenants whose relations with their landlords are strained or who live at some distance from the landlord's collection centres, find this procedure for paying rents advantageous. As compared with the previous year, the total number of rent money-orders increased from 39,504 to 42,949 and the amount covered by them from Rs. 6,19,217 to Rs. 6,52,271; while the percentage of refusals to receive payment fell from 24·67 to 22·5.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Road and Public Works cesses.

42. The Bengal Cess Act, IX of 1880, is not in force in the districts of Angul and Sambalpur and parts of the Sonthal Parganas, where it is being gradually introduced. In the 30 districts in which the Act is in force, the cesses are levied at the maximum rate of one anna on each rupee of the annual value of lands or annual net profits of mines and other immoveable properties. The demand for the year was over seventy-one lakhs on a gross rental or valuation of over 1,287½ lakhs. The collections amounted to Rs. 71,97,473, giving a percentage of 101·07 over the current demand.

Cess revaluations.

43. During the year valuations and revaluations were in progress in 18 out of the 30 districts to which the Act applies. General revaluations on an extensive scale were completed in the districts of Burdwan, Bankura, Darbhanga and Palamau. Proposals for the amendment of the Cess Act have been submitted to the Government of India and sanction has been asked for to the introduction of a Bill to amend the Act in the Bengal Legislative Council.

Certificate Procedure.

44. The working of the Bengal Public Demands Recovery Act I of 1895 was on the whole satisfactory. The total number of certificates filed was 139,044, as against 140,510 in the previous year. The decrease is due to a fewer cases having been instituted for the recovery of rents of Government estates. The number of cases disposed of exceeded the number filed during the year by 1,098. The number of cases pending at the close of the year was 39,137, of which 7,113 were more than six months old. Proposals for the amendment of the Act are under consideration.

Land Registration.

45. The total number of proprietary interests in land entered in the registers under the Land Registration Act, 1876, was 1,050,231 at the close of the year. Over 64,000 applications were filed during the year for registration on succession to proprietary rights by purchase, inheritance, gift or otherwise. The number of cases disposed of was 66,916 and the number pending at the close of the year was 16,548.

The work of revision of the registers in consequence of the recent amendment of the Act and with reference to information supplied by the Settlement Department was continued. Notices of transfers were on the whole received regularly from Sub-Registrars, Civil Courts, other department of the Collectorate and the Land Acquisition Offices.

Surveys and Settlements.

Out-turn of the year.

46. The Administration Report for the year 1906-1907 was completed after the Reports of the Superintendent of Provincial Surveys and the Director of Land Records, for the year ending the 30th September 1907, had been received and reviewed. Information regarding major surveys and settlements dealt with in those Reports was therefore included in it. Of other operations, the resettlement of the district of Sambalpur was concluded in 1906-1907. The net revenue was raised from Rs. 1,53,257 to Rs. 1,97,712, or by about 29 per cent. The survey of the suburbs of Calcutta was also almost complete when the year closed; the work in one subdivision could not be finished owing to difficulties experienced in locating and identifying holdings. The bed of the river Damodar was surveyed in the district of Burdwan, and certain service lands in that district and in Bankura were under settlement. Minor operations under Chapter X of the Bengal Tenancy Act covered an aggregate area of 72,845 acres of Government estates, and of 67,314 acres of zamindari estates.

Land Records.

Revision and maintenance of records.

47. In last year's report an account was given of the working of the revision of settlement operations in Orissa during the first year of the experiment. It was originally anticipated that 20 lakhs of plots would have been completely revised by the end of September 1907 at an expenditure of Rs. 1,57,000. The amount of progress, however, fell far short of expectations. By the end of the settlement year, the initial record had been prepared for 11 lakhs of plots, seven lakhs only had been attested,

and office work completed for about half that number, while the expenditure had been Rs. 1,40,000. Important alterations were made in the procedure and organization of the work before the field season of 1907-1908, and considerable success has been attained in the working of the scheme during the past year. The revised programme was fully worked up to and the progress achieved may be briefly summed up as follows. The initial record was prepared for 21 lakhs of plots. Attestation was completed and objections disposed of for 13 lakhs of plots. Records of 13 lakhs of plots were checked, copied and prepared for final publication, and a considerable amount of case work under section 105 and section 106 was disposed of. The cost of the operations of the year has been Rs. 2,24,000.

It had become obvious before the close of the previous year that the programmes and estimates originally sanctioned by the Government of India would require very considerable modification. Revised estimates based upon the experience of the past 18 months were prepared by the Director of Land Records at the end of March 1908. According to these the work may be completed by September 1912 if the necessary funds are forthcoming, but it is expected to cost $11\frac{2}{3}$ lakhs of rupees instead of $6\frac{1}{2}$ lakhs; and as the Local Government is unable to provide funds at the rate required by the programme, an application has been made to the Government of India for assistance. The light which these experimental revision operations in the temporarily-settled districts of Orissa has thrown on the labour and cost of revision settlements renders it unlikely that the experiment will be extended to the permanently-settled districts of Bihar until the original settlement programme of the Province has been completed. The early settlement of the deltaic districts is a more urgent administrative necessity than the revision of the western districts already settled, and the Local Government cannot afford the funds and officers required for both.

48. Preparations were made during the past year to train the local recorders nominated by Panchayats, who are to be utilized in the present year for the annual maintenance of records. **Training of local recorders.**

Waste Lands.

[Land Revenue Administration Report, 1907-08.]

49. The number of current leases granted in the 24-Parganas and Khulna tracts of the Sundarbans remained the same as in the previous year, namely 115. The rent payable on account of these leases increased by over Rs. 9,000. In consequence of the suspension of the rules for the grant of waste lands in the Sundarbans, no new leases were given during the year. One lease under the large capitalists' rules was determined for failure to comply with the clearing conditions, two leases which had been resumed previously were restored to the lessees, and two were renewed. This led to an increase of three in the number of leases to large capitalists. The number of leases granted to small capitalists remained the same. During the year, new forms of leases for *raiyatwari* settlements in the Sundarbans and for building sites and agricultural tenants in Fraserganj were introduced. **Waste land leases.**

50. The progress of the work of reclamation at Fraserganj was retarded by outbreaks of cholera among the coolies, and was therefore not as satisfactory as had been expected. The jungle cutting has not been completed, and an area of 1,310 acres remains to be cleared. Out of 7,208 acres cleared of jungle, 5,672 acres have been provided with embankments and dams completely protecting the area against the ingress of salt water. Of these 5,672 acres, about 3,025 acres are now sweet and cultivable, and arrangements are being made for cultivation this season. Besides cutting and clearing jungle and repairing dams and embankments made in the previous seasons, 10 miles of new embankments, 16 dams and 12 tanks were constructed during the year. **Reclamation.**

The number of settlers varied from time to time. There were 36 at the close of the year under report. The applications for building sites received from European gentlemen have been withdrawn because they were unwilling

to spend the sums fixed by the Board for the construction of houses, in accordance with plans previously approved by the Collector, and also on account of the uncertainty of steamer communication with the island.

The outturn of paddy sown last year was not satisfactory, owing to the damage done to the crop by excessive rain in June and by drought later on. The agricultural experiments in other respects are promising. Cocoanut and rubber trees are thriving. Plantain trees and pineapples are yielding some fruit. Ground-nut and potatoes yielded good crops. Sugarcane, sunflower and tobacco also did well.

The steamer *Khatri*, for which Government paid a subsidy of Rs. 2,300 a month, ran weekly throughout the year. The receipts from passenger and freight traffic amounted to Rs. 10,104, which were credited to Government. The Public Works Department made an iron landing-stage at a cost of Rs. 13,700, and a refuge house is under construction.

The expenditure incurred in 1907-1908 in Fraserganj was Rs. 1,19,163, and the total expenditure up to the end of 1907-1908 amounted to Rs. 4,55,743. This includes the maintenance of embankments, the hire of the *Khatri* and the purchase of corrugated iron sheds and other fixtures since the commencement of the operations.

Resumed estates.

51. Some 32 estates in the 24-Parganas and Khulna Sundarbans were resumed by Government owing to the failure of the lessees to comply with the terms of their agreement or for other causes. The condition of the estates is not satisfactory. A quinquennial programme of works of improvement in the estates has been prepared and will be carried out as funds permit.

Government Estates.

[Land Revenue Administration Report, 1907-1908.]

Number and management.

52. The total number of estates under direct management during the year, including estates of private individuals managed by Government, was 1,830, with a current demand of over twenty-eight lakhs. The percentage of cost of management was 7·87.

Some slight changes were made during the year in the administration of some of these estates. In Gaya, two collecting circles were amalgamated and the management of two circles lying within the Jahanabad subdivision was transferred to that subdivision from the Sadar. In Sambalpur, the agricultural plots in and near the town were formed into one estate under the name of the "Sambalpur Estate." In Darjeeling, the management of the West Tista khas mahals, hitherto in charge of the Manager of the Kalimpong Government estate, was placed in the hands of a Sub-Deputy Collector.

Improvement of these estates.

53. The total grant placed at the disposal of the Board of Revenue for management, agricultural experiments, and agricultural, sanitary and miscellaneous improvements, amounted to over four lakhs. The unexpended balance of the allotments for experiments and improvements was only Rs. 16,465.

Education.

54. The grant of over half a lakh made for education was almost wholly spent. There was again an increase in the number of schools and pupils in Government estates, chiefly in Midnapore. There was, however, a further falling off in the Chota Nagpur Division, especially in Hazaribagh, Palamau and Singhbhum. In the latter district the decrease appears to be mainly due to the fact that instruction is conveyed to the aborigines of the Kolhan by foreigners in a foreign language. It is essential that teachers should be supplied who speak the Kol language freely, and that text-books should be adapted to local conditions. This question is engaging the attention of Government.

Roads and communications.

55. The expenditure on roads and communications in the Government estates amounted to Rs. 1,15,014, against the Government grant of Rs. 69,303. The expenditure exceeded the grant in all Divisions and the excess was met from contributions by District Boards, Municipalities and other local funds.

Condition of Government raiyats.

56. The year was not a prosperous one and the raiyats in Government estates suffered, as did other raiyats, from bad harvests and high prices. They were helped out by agricultural loans and suspensions and remissions of rent, which were freely given in all cases where relief was necessary.

57. In the Burdwan Division crops were damaged by untimely floods and the failure of the rains in September and October. Sporadic outbreaks of cholera and small-pox occurred in some of the Government estates. Burdwan Division.

58. In the Presidency Division, the raiyats were fairly prosperous in parts of Nadia, Khulna, Murshidabad and Jessore, but elsewhere they had a poor year. There was a partial failure of crops, caused by the heavy rains in June and July and their cessation in October. There was an outbreak of cholera and small-pox in several quarters. Presidency Division.

59. In Patna, the floods in September and the drought which continued from October to December resulted in poor harvests of the *bhadoi* and winter rice crops, and had it not been for good rains in January, the *rabi* crops would have completely failed. In Gaya the condition of the produce-rent-paying tenants was not satisfactory owing to the failure of the paddy crops. The condition of the raiyats in the Government estates in Shahabad was on the whole fair, except in the case of non-*diara* villages, lying outside the canal-irrigated area, where the winter rice was poor and the spring crops were restricted in area by the failure of the autumn rains. In Saran the tenants had poor winter rice and moderate *bhadoi* crops, but the outturn of the *rabi* crops being good, they were enabled to support themselves without any very serious difficulty. In Darbhanga, during the first-half of the year, the general condition of the khas mahal raiyats was not good owing to the continuance of famine; but during the latter part of it they were better off. Patna Division.

60. In the Bhagalpur Division the tenants of Government estates in Monghyr have suffered much of late years from diluvion and deterioration of soil due to deposits of sand and from plague and small-pox. The tenantry of the Kalimpong and West Tista khas mahals in Darjeeling were not prosperous in consequence of the partial failure of crops and more especially on account of their heavy indebtedness to Marwari money-lenders who exact exorbitant interest for their loans. The condition of the Government raiyats in the division was generally good. Bhagalpur Division.

61. In Cuttack, repeated floods in August and September, followed by drought in October and November, seriously damaged the crops. Works of improvement were taken in hand to provide work for the labouring classes. Gratuitous relief in grain doles was also given to the people in distress. The tenants of Government estates in Balasore suffered from the same causes and a serious outbreak of cholera occurred in some of the estates in the district. Relief works had to be started in some of the Government estates in the district of Puri, where the crops suffered severely from floods and drought. In Angul a succession of bad harvests for the last three years and the high prices of food-grains told on the condition of the cultivators with small holdings and the labouring classes. The condition of the raiyats in Sambalpur was fair on the whole. Orissa Division.

62. As for the Chota Nagpur Division, the general condition of the tenantry in Hazaribagh was good, and there were no desertions. In Ranchi there was some scarcity in the latter part of the year, owing to the failure of the crops, but otherwise the condition of the raiyats in the Government estates was fairly satisfactory. In Singhbhum, the raiyats were, in spite of the drawbacks of the season, fairly prosperous. In Palamau, owing to the unfavourable monsoon conditions which prevailed, the agricultural year throughout the district was unfortunate. But by reason of the very close attention given to the Government estate in recent years, the raiyats were enabled to meet their troubles far more successfully than the tenants of private estates. Owing further to the very low rates taken for *mahua*, and more particularly for lac, the tenants possessed a reserve which helped them to face successfully a year of adverse conditions. Chota Nagpur Division.

Wards' and Attached Estates.

[Report on the Wards' and Attached Estates, 1907-1908.]

63. The number of estates under the management of the Court of Wards at the close of the year under report was 200, as against 190 in the previous year. The amount of revenue and cesses paid by these estates to Government during the year was 92·4 per cent. of the total demand, against 91·1 per cent. in the last preceding year. Number of Estates and payment of Government demands.

ADMINISTRATION OF THE LAND.

Collections of rent and cesses.

64. The collection of rent and cesses due to the estates fell from 97·2 per cent. of the current demand in the year 1906-1907 to 95·7 per cent. in the year under report. The short collections were generally due to failure of crops. The total outstanding balances of rent and cesses amounted to Rs. 1,15,88,188, which is 28·9 per cent. of the current demand, against 69·9 per cent. in the previous year. This sudden abnormal increase in the balances is mainly accounted for by the assumption of the charge of the Dumraon Estate in Shahabad, late in the year, with a balance of Rs. 42,59,244, of which Rs. 27,78,084 are barred by limitation. The other causes were poor collections consequent on damage done to the crops by drought and floods and the inclusion under the head "balance" of large sums of money which are wholly irrecoverable. Orissa is the only Division in which the total balance was less than the total current demand.

The number of certificates filed during the year for the recovery of arrears of rent and cesses exceeded by 568 the number filed during the previous year. But the percentage of realization of the money covered by them was less than in the previous year, being 32·5 per cent. against 34·4 per cent. There was also an increase in the number of civil suits instituted during the year, compared with the figures of the last year. As a rule, litigation is avoided whenever it is possible; but when suits are instituted before the admission of an estate to the Court of Wards, such a course is not possible, as in the case of the Sonbarsa Estate in the district of Bhagalpur, on behalf of which 712 such suits were instituted during the year.

Financial position of the estates.

65. The financial condition of the estates was generally good except those managed under the provisions of the Chota Nagpur Encumbered Estates Act VI of 1876, and a few others like that of Raja Sir Sourindra Mohan Tagore, KT., C.I.E., of Calcutta, which are hopelessly involved. Altogether Rs. 35,99,997 were paid in liquidation of debts, as against Rs. 50,55,144 in the previous year, the percentages of the amounts paid over the total liabilities as they stood at the beginning of the two years being 16·3 and 23·2, respectively. In the case of some of the estates, the progress made is very unsatisfactory, and the prompt release of those which are really insolvent is preferable to useless procrastination.

Management charges.

66. The cost of management varies greatly according to the circumstances of each estate. The highest on record during the year is that of the Nawada Estate in Patna, and the lowest is that of the Dhalbhum and five encumbered estates in the district of Singhbhum, the percentages of the cost of management over the current rent and cess demands in the two cases being 25·4 and ·7, respectively. Entertainment of special establishments, payment of arrears of salaries, small areas and scattered nature of the estates are the reasons assigned for the actual costs exceeding the standard limit of 10 per cent. of the current rent and cess demands.

Schools, Dispensaries and Improvements.

67. The total expenditure on works of improvements, schools and dispensaries, amounted to Rs. 4,26,302, against 3,38,657 spent during the previous year. It is satisfactory to note that the Bettiah estate in Champaran, in spite of its heavy liabilities, was in a position to spend Rs. 24,852 for the construction of a new building for the Raj Entrance School at Bettiah. The agricultural experiments conducted in the various estates during the year were attended with indifferent results, failure in most cases being due to the unfavourable condition of the weather throughout the year.

Education of Wards.

68. The proposal for establishing a separate college for the education of the sons of well-to-de zamindars, including the minor proprietors of wards' estates, has been finally abandoned, and it has been arranged that the Model College at Ranchi, of which the foundation stone was laid on 17th September 1908, will also serve this purpose. Separate boarding and lodging arrangements have been made for the students of this class suitable to their position and rank in society.

Revenue and Rent-paying Classes.

[Land Revenue Administration Report, 1907-1908; Divisional Miscellaneous Reports, 1907-1908.]

Bengal Tenancy Act.

69. The provisions of the Bengal Tenancy Act, VIII of 1885, as amended by Bengal Act III of 1898 and Bengal Act I of 1907, govern the

relations between the landlords and the tenants of the major portion of the Lower Provinces. The Act continued to work fairly satisfactorily. The gradual extension of the survey and settlement proceedings to the whole of the Province has tended to familiarize the public with some of the more important provisions of the Act.

The provisions of certain sections of the Act as amended were introduced into the districts of Cuttack, Puri and Balasore and the districts of the Chota Nagpur Division (except Manbhum). The question of extending the remaining portions of the Act to the districts of Orissa is under consideration.

Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act.

70. Towards the close of the year, a revised Bill to consolidate and amend the law relative to landlords and tenants in the Chota Nagpur Division with a view to secure raiyats in the enjoyment of their rights as well as to safeguard the interests of landlords in their privileged lands was submitted to the Government of India.

Rent-receipts.

71. The use of rent-receipt forms, printed by Government presses, is practically confined to the Government estates and those administered by the Court of Wards; the public in general use the cheaper forms sold by private firms. It is understood that some of the petty landlords in Cuttack do not use the printed forms; but nothing has been reported this year as to the use of palm-leaf receipts in Orissa. The question of the introduction of the system of duplication of receipts by the pen-carbon process in all Government estates is being considered by the Board.

A set of instructions has been issued by the Board for the guidance of Revenue Officers administering the provisions of section 58 of the Bengal Tenancy Act regarding the withholding of rent receipts by landlords. There was a remarkable reduction from 334 to 15 in the number of complaints brought by the raiyats in the Ranchi district against landlords for withholding rent receipts and none of the 15 were successful.

Rent suits.

72. In the districts of Cuttack, Balasore and Puri in the Orissa Division, the Darjeeling district in the Bhagalpur Division, and the Manbhum district in the Chota Nagpur Division, rent suits are tried under Act X of 1859. In the other districts of Chota Nagpur, rent cases are tried under the Chota Nagpur Landlord and Tenant Procedure Act, I of 1879. In Sambalpur, such suits are tried under the Central Provinces Tenancy Act by Revenue Officers who have been appointed as Munsifs.

In the Orissa Division, 27,506 suits of all kinds were instituted against 30,671 in the preceding year. In Cuttack and Balasore, the decrease was mainly attributed to bad harvests, and in Puri to the fact that in 1906-1907 the common Manager of the Bhinjarpur estate and the Manager of the Puri temple had filed an exceptionally large number of rent suits. In Cuttack, the number of suits instituted for the recovery of arrears of rent, which constituted the bulk of the suits under Act X of 1859, shows an increase of 143; but there was a decrease of 15 cases in suits regarding illegal exactions, and of 236 in miscellaneous applications.

In the Chota Nagpur Division, altogether 5,899 suits for arrears of rent were instituted, against 7,340 in the year 1906-1907. The decrease is shared by all the districts except Manbhum, where there was an increase of 232 suits. The decrease (715) in Hazaribagh was ascribed partly to the fact that the Raja of Padma, who had instituted 270 suits in 1906-1907, filed only seven suits in the year under report, and partly to the failure of the crops. In Ranchi, the decrease (540) was due (*a*) to the fact that the *Sambat* era having fallen this year in April instead of in March, a large number of suits were filed during the month of April 1908, and (*b*) to a gradual settling down and improvement of the agricultural situation where the settlement has been finished.

Inspections of officers trying rent-suits.

73. The Board laid down that officers inspecting the work of Deputy Collectors trying rent suits should look into the following among other points:—

(*a*) whether the record-of-rights is usually or invariably consulted before passing a decree in cases where the plaintiff had not filed with his plaint a true copy of the portion of such records concerned;

(*b*) whether the name of the village, as given in the plaint, agrees and corresponds with any recognised village according to the record-of-rights, and whether the land concerned in the suit is actually in such village;

(*c*) whether the name of the thana in which the village is situated is invariably stated; and

(*d*) whether the plot numbers are those as given in the *khatians*.

From the reports received it appears that these directions are being strictly observed in Ranchi and Singhbhum, but less carefully in Cuttack, whilst nothing has been reported about Balasore and Puri. Records-of-rights have not been prepared for large areas in the other districts.

Relations between landlords and tenants.

74. The relations between landlords and tenants in the Burdwan and Presidency Divisions were on the whole satisfactory. In the Cuttack and Balasore districts of the Orissa Division, the proceedings for the revision of the settlement records now in progress seem to have upset to some extent the friendly relationship existing between the two classes. In the Patna district and in parts of the Ranchi and Singhbhum districts of the Chota Nagpur Division, the relations between landlords and tenants were more or less strained.

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CHAPTER III.—PROTECTION.

Legislative Authority.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGES 179—181.

Course of Legislation.

75. Three Acts were passed by the Bengal Council during the year 1907-1908, as follows:— Acts passed during 1907-1908.

Bengal Act I of 1907 [*the Bengal Tenancy (Amendment) Act, 1907*].—This Act was passed on the 3rd April 1907, and received the assent of the Governor-General on the 11th May 1907. A description of the leading provisions of the Act was published on page 17 of the Bengal Administration Report for the year 1906-1907.

Bengal Act II of 1907 [*the Calcutta Port (Amendment) Act, 1907*].—This Act received the assent of the Governor-General on the 25th September 1907. The principal objects of the Act are (*1*) to enable the Calcutta Port Trust to raise loans for longer periods than that of thirty years, formerly prescribed, so that the Sinking Fund charge payable every year from revenue may be proportionately less, and (*2*) to raise loans for short terms, which may be converted into other short-term loans bearing a lower rate of interest. The Act also gives the Government certain powers of control over the raising of loans by the Trust, and provides for the annual examination of the Sinking Fund. The pre-existing law is also amended so as to admit of the river due being made a permanent source of income.

Bengal Act III of 1907 [*the Calcutta and Suburban Police (Amendment) Act, 1907*].—This Act received the assent of the Governor-General on the 25th September 1907. Its main object is to amend the Calcutta Police Act, 1866, and the Calcutta Suburban Police Act, 1866, so as to give the Commissioner of Police wider powers for closing brothels and disorderly houses, and to enable him effectively to deal with the evil caused by the use of empty houses as places of assignation, and thus to afford protection to the student community in particular and the public in general. The Act also empowers the Commissioner of Police to direct the discontinuance of music and noises in cases of dangerous illness or where they seriously interfere with reasonable occupations, and to forbid or regulate the carrying of offensive weapons by members of public assemblies or processions. Some minor amendments are also made in the pre-existing law.

76. *The Sambalpur (Evidence) Bill, 1908.*—This Bill was introduced in Council on the 25th January 1908, and passed shortly after the close of the official year, viz., on the 4th April, being now Bengal Act II of 1908. The object of the Act is to bring the Sambalpur district into line with other districts in Bengal in regard to the recording *in extenso* of evidence in the Civil Courts. Bills pending during 1907-1908.

The Puri Lodging-house (Amendment) Bill, 1908.—This Bill was introduced in Council on the 8th February 1908, and passed shortly after the close of the official year, viz., on the 10th April 1908, being now Bengal Act III of 1908. The Act makes various amendments in the Puri Lodging-house Act, 1871, with the object of providing greater safeguards against the overcrowding of pilgrims' lodging-houses, ensuring better inspection, and remedying minor defects disclosed by practical working.

No action was taken by the Council during the year in respect of the Bengal Excise Bill, 1903, or the Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1906, or in respect of the Chota Nagpur Tenancy (Amendment) Bill, 1907, which is described on page 18 of the Bengal Administration Report for the year 1906-1907.

Police.

[Report on the Administration of Police, 1907; Statistics of British India, Part VI—Judicial—Section VII.]

Strength of the force.

77. Substantial progress was made towards the reorganization of the staff in accordance with the proposals sanctioned by the Secretary of State in 1906. Nine Probationary Assistant Superintendents and eight Deputy Superintendents were added to the cadre. There was an increase in the subordinate establishment of 20 Inspectors, 40 Sub-Inspectors, 150 Head-Constables and 792 Constables. The majority of this increased staff was appointed for investigation work. Three hundred and seventeen town chaukidars were replaced by Constables. A scheme is under preparation for the reorganization of the River Police. New rules for the recruitment of Sub-Inspectors were introduced. Under these rules candidates are nominated by District Committees, consisting of the District Magistrate, the Deputy Inspector-General of the Range and the Superintendent of Police. The nominees are then assembled for selection at different centres in the Province, the list of selected candidates being finally passed by the Inspector-General of Police.

Training Schools.

78. Good work was done at the Police Training College and the Constables' Training Schools. An interesting advance is being made in the introduction of a course of training in shorthand. Six selected cadets received training in shorthand at the Bhagalpur Church Missionary Society's Institution, but had not attained sufficient proficiency to be able to report at meetings. A special officer has recently been appointed to give instruction in this subject at the Training College and to work out a system of shorthand suitable to the Bengali language. The Police Training College was removed to Ranchi at the close of the year. The Constables' Training School formerly at Purulia was removed to Berhampore in October.

Discipline.

79. The education of the force has been improved. Ninety per cent. of the officers and 32 per cent. of the men could read and write. The percentage of officers departmentally punished rose from 12·9 in 1905 and 17·5 in 1906 to 19 in 1907. Thirteen per cent. of the men were departmentally punished as against 13·6 per cent. in 1906. The number of convictions under the Penal Code was 114, an increase of four over the figure for the previous year. Three charges of torture were brought against the police, the same number as in each of the two preceding years. It is satisfactory to note that the number of charges of extortion brought against members of the force has steadily decreased. There were 37 such charges in 1905, 32 in 1906, and 15 in 1907.

Health.

80. The average daily percentage of sick in hospital fell from 1·8 in 1906 to 1·6 in 1907. The Burdwan Division was the most unhealthy; but Purnea was the worst individual district with a percentage of 4·2. Hooghly and Angul were the next most unhealthy districts.

Town Police.

81. Further steps have been taken towards the reform of the Town Police. The full force sanctioned has not yet been provided, but is being gradually worked up to as funds permit. As stated above, further progress has been made towards the complete replacement of town chaukidars by constables. The Town Police succeeded in effecting an increased number of arrests. A new scheme of patrol has been introduced in Patna City and is now under consideration for general adoption.

Rural Police.

82. The new system of chaukidari administration, which has been introduced in several districts of the Province, has not produced all the results that were anticipated from it. The success of the system depends mainly on the selection of suitable persons to be Presidents of panchayats. In districts where this has been effected, the system has worked satisfactorily; but it cannot be denied that in other districts it has resulted in a loss of touch between the regular and the rural police. Wherever the Presidents of panchayats were not in full sympathy with the administration or did not realise their responsibility for the work of the chaukidars, there was delay in reporting crime, and the usefulness of the village chaukidar, as far as the surveillance of bad characters and assistance in investigation are concerned, has been, to a certain degree, impaired. The officers who were most sanguine as to the success of this system always regarded it as a necessary condition

to success that a whole-time Deputy Magistrate should be employed to supervise the work of the panchayats, attend to their recruitment and verify the administration in each district. It has not been possible as yet to appoint these officers; and until this has been done, the system can hardly have a fair trial. The total number of chaukidars in the Province has been reduced by 2,000, after a careful examination of local needs. There was great diversity in different districts in the system of rewarding and punishing chaukidars. The average fine imposed upon chaukidars in the district of Gaya was Rs. 3-3, while in the district of Hazaribagh it was 2 annas. In the latter district the amount paid in rewards fell from Rs. 1,180 to Rs. 90. In some districts the punishments were too frequent or too severe, while in other districts too little attention was paid to the granting of rewards.

Cognizable crime.

83. There was an increase by 410 in the total number of reported cognizable cases. The number is high, and the excess over the average for the past decade is attributed to the high price of grain. Excluding public nuisances and offences under special or local laws, the percentage of police cases resulting in conviction to cases decided rose from 77 in 1905 and 80 in 1906 to 82 in 1907. The percentage of convictions in Sessions cases was nearly the same as in the previous year.

False cases.

84. The number of cases declared false decreased from 3,392 in 1906 to 3,210 in 1907. This represents a little over 2 per cent of the total number of cases reported. Patna and Shahabad are the districts in which these cases were most numerous. The percentage of such cases in which prosecutions were instituted under sections 182 and 211 of the Indian Penal Code fell from 15·7 in 1905 and 12·8 in 1906 to 10·9 in 1907. The percentage of convictions in such cases also fell from 39·5 in 1906 to 37·6 in 1907. There was a considerable fall in the number of cases in which compensation was awarded under section 250, Criminal Procedure Code.

Remands.

85. The percentage of cases disposed of at the first two hearings remained practically stationary, while there was a rise in that of cases remanded more than six times. The worst results came from the Patna Division, particularly the Patna district, where no less than 123 cases of the 953 sent up were remanded more than six times. This compares unfavourably with the next heaviest district, Midnapore, where there were almost the same number of cases, but only 15 were remanded over six times. The special attention of Magistrates will be drawn to the necessity for the speedy disposal of cases.

Serious crimes: murder, etc.

86. The number of serious crimes against the person fell from 3,555 in 1906 to 3,452 in 1907. The number of murders rose from 284 to 306. Of these 306 cases, only 180 came before the Courts, and of these only 43 per cent. ended in conviction. The proportion of undetected cases was high; and the judicial results in detected cases cannot be considered satisfactory. The most important cases under this heading were the murder of the Maharaja of Sonbursa in Bhagalpur, and the murder of a European girl at Darjeeling by a corporal of the Artillery at Katapahar.

Rioting, etc.

87. The total number of rioting cases slightly decreased, the decrease being shared by every Division except Burdwan and Chota Nagpur. It is satisfactory that the decrease has been progressive for three successive years and accompanies an increase of preventive action under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code. The increase in the Midnapore district of the Burdwan Division is attributed to political unrest. The increase in the Chota Nagpur Division was accompanied by a decrease in the number of cases in which persons were bound down to keep the peace under section 107, Criminal Procedure Code. There is reason to infer that where this section had been sufficiently utilised the results were good, and that where rioting tended to increase, sufficient use had not been made of it.

Dacoity, etc.

88. The number of dacoities steadily if slightly decreased from 247 in 1905, 228 in 1906 to 204 in 1907. The decrease is most noticeable in the Bhagalpur and Chota Nagpur Divisions, and is undoubtedly due to the successful prosecution of gang cases, and proceedings under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code, particularly in Purnea and Manbhum. Purnea headed the list with 33 dacoities; but this figure is less by 17 than that for the previous year. The next worst districts are Shahabad with 21 and Midnapore with 17 cases. In Manbhum the number of dacoities decreased from 27 in 1906

to 7 in 1907. There was a brief outbreak of dacoity in Sambalpur, and in Hooghly the number of cases rose from 6 to 12, 11 out of which were undetected. The number of burglary cases remained practically unchanged; and the number of theft cases slightly increased. The figures for these forms of crime were considerably above the average of preceding years, an unfortunate but inevitable result of the high price of grain. The Sonthal Parganas headed the list for cattle-thefts. Nevertheless, the number of these cases in this district decreased from 403 in 1906 to 224 in 1907, a result attributable to the successful prosecution of some notorious cattle-lifters. There was a rather remarkable increase in the number of cases of arson. There were as many as 432 such cases in the year under review, 87 of which were declared false. Midnapore was responsible for about 10 per cent. of the total number of cases in the Province; but the worst Division was the Presidency, where there were as many as 109 true cases, only one of which ended in conviction. Some part of the increase in this form of crime is attributable to political unrest. The difficulty of obtaining evidence in cases of this nature and the steps necessary for prevention are engaging the serious attention of Government.

Railway Police. 89. There was a general increase of crime on all the Railway systems in the Province. The total number of cases reported to the Railway Police rose from 7,875 in 1905 and 8,658 in 1906 to 10,348 in 1907. The increase was chiefly in cases of minor offences against property. The division of the Railways into smaller police charges resulted in the maintenance of closer supervision and less concealment of petty crime. The increase in the volume of traffic and the extensions of the Railway systems (notably the Grand Chord on the East Indian Railway and the Purulia-Ranchi branch of the Bengal-Nagpur Railway) were probably as much responsible for the increase in the number of cases as the prevailing scarcity. The percentage of convictions to cases decided was 89·5 per cent., against 88·9 in the previous year. The number of obstructions on the line fell from 63 in 1906 to 48 in 1907. The most important of these was the attempt to blow up the Lieutenant-Governor's train on the 5th December. There were three or four strikes on the Railway, the most serious being the strike of European and Eurasian guards and drivers on the East Indian Railway in November. A Company of European troops was despatched from Calcutta to Asansol to maintain order; and detachments of military and armed police were stationed at other centres on the line. These precautions prevented any serious disturbance.

Criminal Investigation. 90. The operations of the Criminal Investigation Department were remarkably successful. Valuable work was done in dealing with organized gangs of thieves and dacoits; and the Department undertook in addition the investigation of a number of incidental cases of murder, forgery, and other serious crimes. The most important of these investigations was the enquiry into the attempt to derail the Lieutenant-Governor's train at Naraingarh on the Bengal-Nagpur railway, referred to above. The enquiry resulted in the conviction of some railway coolies. A number of gang cases were prosecuted with uniform success, and as many as 93 per cent. of the persons tried were convicted. The Department succeeded in breaking up a number of wandering gangs of Haburahs who were responsible for a formidable outbreak of road dacoity at the beginning of the year. These Haburahs were old jail-birds who hailed from the United Provinces. They moved into Bengal, where they represented themselves as Karwals and Naths of a comparatively harmless type, and by this means succeeded for a time in diverting the suspicions of the local police. The Department started active enquiries into their character and methods, which resulted in the arrest, on a given date, of all gangs of Karwals and Naths then halting in the Province. The identity of a number of them as Haburahs was established by means of finger-prints, and the true Karwal gangs were released. Nearly 300 cases of dacoity, robbery and theft were traced to the gangs, most of whom were convicted in specific cases or bound down under section 110, Criminal Procedure Code. A large number were found to have as many as five or more previous convictions. Other important cases in which the services of the Department were employed with success were the case of Bamapada Mukharji, a notorious swindler who was arrested at Ratlam, and the break up of the Calcutta-Midnapore gang of

blackmailers. Continued progress was made in the classification of finger-prints, the preparation of history-sheets and the photography of notorious criminals. Six Sub-Inspectors are yearly deputed from districts to undergo a course of training in the finger-print system. The relations between the Department and the Calcutta Police and those of other provinces continued to be cordial.

Mortality caused by Snakes and Wild Animals.

[Report on the above and measures taken for their destruction; Statistics of British India, Part V—Public Health.]

Wild animals.

91. The number of persons killed by wild animals rose from 756 in 1906 to 840, the result chiefly of an increase in the Patna Division, where 142 persons were killed, as against 54 in the preceding year. This is due to the ravages of a pack of wolves which infested the jungles round the Pandu river in the Madhubani subdivision of the Darbhanga district. A reward of Rs. 10 was offered by the local officers for every wolf killed in the neighbourhood, and the District Magistrate gave out guns to suitable persons. Elephants were responsible for 16 deaths, as against 18 in the preceding year. Of these eight occurred in the Darjeeling district. A notification published by the local officers calling for applications for licenses to capture elephants was of no avail. The Deputy Commissioner accordingly invited the inhabitants of villages liable to attack from wild elephants to apply for licenses to possess guns, and also recommended that arrangements should be made for a Government Khedda party now working in the Jalpaiguri district of Eastern Bengal and Assam to start operations in Darjeeling. The matter was still under consideration at the close of the year.

The number of deaths caused by tigers rose from 295 to 355, the increase being principally in the districts of Khulna, Hazaribagh, Ranchi and Singhbhum. The increased mortality in the district of Hazaribagh and Singhbhum was due to two man-eaters, for whose destruction special rewards of Rs. 500 and Rs. 100 were offered. Every effort was made to kill these animals, but without effect. Deaths caused by leopards fell to 77, as against 112 in 1906.

Snakes.

92. The number of persons who died from snake-bite was 8,276, as against 8,862 in 1906. The Patna Division continued to show the highest mortality.

Cattle killed by wild animals.

93. Sixteen thousand nine hundred and sixty-six head of cattle were killed by wild animals, as against 17,023 in 1906.

Destruction of wild animals and snakes.

94. The total number of wild animals destroyed during the year under report was 1,604, as against 1,521 in the preceding year.

Twenty thousand four hundred and ninety-nine snakes were reported to have been destroyed, as against 19,182 in the preceding year; these figures are not, however, complete or reliable. The amounts paid in rewards for the destruction of wild animals and snakes were Rs. 6,513-2 and Rs. 206-4-6, respectively, the corresponding figures for 1906 being Rs. 6,165-14 and Rs. 306-7-6.

Police Administration in Calcutta.

[The Annual Report on the Police Administration of the Town of Calcutta and its Suburbs for the year 1907.]

Reorganization.

95. The principal measures taken during the year to give effect to the scheme for the reorganization of the Calcutta Police were the replacement of the Superintendent of the Port Police by a Deputy Commissioner and the regrading of the Inspectors and Sub-Inspectors. The substitution of Deputy Commissioners for Superintendents of Divisions is still in abeyance. Proposals for the improvement of the beat system in the town and suburbs were matured and submitted for the sanction of the Government of India.

Discipline.

96. Three officers and 68 men were dismissed during the year, as against 7 officers and 57 men in the year 1906. Other departmental punishments decreased; but the number of men judicially convicted rose from 10 in 1905 and 21 in 1906 to 31 in 1907. One hundred and seventy-six men resigned, as against 133 in 1906. The number of resignations is, however, very much less

than in 1904 and 1905. As many as 100 recruits deserted, an increase of 17 over the number of desertions in the previous year. It is hoped that the change of training ground from Calcutta to Bhagalpur will effect an improvement in this respect. There has been a continued improvement in the work of the Port Police.

Cognizable crime.

97. There was an increase of 3,672 in the number of true cognizable cases reported direct to the Police and instituted on complaint to a Magistrate. The increase was principally due to a very much larger number of prosecutions under the Cruelty to Animals Act, which indicates closer supervision and a stricter enforcement of the Act.

There were 15 murder cases reported during the year, besides 2 cases of 1906, brought to trial in 1907. Only 4 persons were convicted, 2 were awaiting trial at the close of the year. There was an unusually large number of cases of riot and unlawful assembly, but the increase over the average was principally due to the disturbances which took place on the 2nd and 3rd October. There was a regrettable increase of 724 in the number of cases of theft, and 254 in the number of burglary cases, over the figures of the previous year. The increase is attributed to the large influx of up-country coolies to the industrial works in progress in the Southern Division, Suburbs, the Dock Extensions and the new drainage works, as also to the fact that the jute mills at Garden Reach were closed for some months. Three gangs of professional thieves were tracked down in the Northern Division of the town ; 35 members of them were convicted. The reorganization of the beat system will, it is hoped, lead to a diminution in the number of burglaries. The vigorous measures taken in previous years against bogus firms have had a salutary effect. These had practically ceased to operate in the year under review.

Results of cases.

98. There were as many as 32,845 cases instituted in the courts of Presidency Magistrates, an increase of more than 2,000 over the previous year. Of these, 4·1 per cent. were disposed of by Honorary Magistrates. The High Court and the Alipore Sessions Court dealt with 55 and 17 cases, respectively, of which 41 and 13 ended in conviction. Six hundred and seven old offenders were reconvicted for specific offences under Chapters XII and XVII, Indian Penal Code, as against 581 in 1906. Only 28 of these cases were convicted at the Courts of Sessions.

The number of persons dealt with as first offenders under section 562, Indian Penal Code, rose from 65 in 1906 to 129 in 1907. Only 10 of these, however, were so dealt with by the Suburban Courts. Twenty-seven juvenile offenders were sent to the Reformatory School, as against 31 of the previous year.

The system of identification by means of finger impressions has continued to give excellent results. One thousand and fifty-nine persons were identified by this means, as against 1,020 in 1906 and 984 in 1905.

Sale of firearms.

99. There was an increase both in the importation by sea and sale inland of firearms, and this is attributed to larger number of purchases by exempted persons.

Unrest and riots.

100. A noteworthy event of the year was the disturbances which took place in Calcutta on the 2nd and 3rd October. These were the result of a campaign of political and racial agitation, which had been carried on by the Native Press throughout the year. Numerous public meetings had been held, in which the speakers endeavoured by violent and inflammatory language to infuriate the populace against the Government of the country. These culminated in an unruly meeting in Beadon Square, which had to be broken up by the police. Collisions between the police and the persons who attended the meeting were followed by general disturbances in the northern quarter of the town, which were not quelled for two days. The allegations made against the police of having committed or abetted the commission of illegal acts at the time of the riots were fully enquired into. Certain lapses from duty received departmental punishment. On the whole, however, the conduct of the police in dealing with the disturbances reflected credit on the discipline of the force. The necessity for dealing with the growing unrest in the city brought on the police much undeserved obloquy. It is to their credit that they performed their duty, often under trying circumstances, with patience and firmness.

Criminal Justice.

[Report on the Administration of Criminal Justice in the Province of Bengal during the year 1907; Statistics of British India, Part VI—Judicial.]

Changes in jurisdiction.

101. During the year, about four acres of land in Sathmera and Rupon jotes were transferred from the district of Darjeeling in the Province of Bengal to the district of Jalpaiguri in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam, and a new subdivision was created in the district of Darjeeling, having its jurisdiction over thana Siliguri, including the outposts of Naxalbari, Phansidewa and Kharibari, and its head-quarters at Siliguri.

Thana Kaliganj was transferred from the jurisdiction of the Sadar subdivision to that of the Jhenidah subdivision in the district of Jessore.

Judicial staff.

102. For Sessions work, the staff consisted of 19 Sessions Judges and 2 Additional Sessions Judges employed throughout the year. Three Subordinate Judges were vested with the powers of an Assistant Sessions Judge. Besides the above, three temporary Additional Sessions Judges were employed for short periods in the districts of Birbhum, Monghyr and Hazaribagh for the trial of gang dacoity cases.

The magisterial staff employed at the close of the year, including that of the Presidency town, consisted of 361 Stipendiary and 1,181 Honorary Magistrates. These figures represent an increase of 16 and a decrease of 20, respectively, on the numbers of the previous year. One Special Magistrate, appointed under section 14 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, was employed on criminal work at Shahabad. Of the 361 Stipendiary Magistrates, 207 exercised first, 77 second, and 77 third, class powers.

There were 141 Benches of Magistrates constituted from among 1,103 Honorary Magistrates working during the year in the mufassal, two Benches having been abolished in the district of Burdwan. Of the total, 120 were independent, and 21 were restricted to the trial of cases under the Municipal Act.

Offences reported.

103. There were 234,353 criminal offences reported during the year, a decrease of 47 on the figures of 1906. In the latter year, there was an increase of 6,996 on the figures of 1905.

Of the total, 137,987 were under the Indian Penal Code, and 96,366 under Special and Local Laws. These totals are more by 1,088 and less by 1,135, respectively, than those of 1906. The increase under the first head was most marked in the Presidency town, the 24-Parganas, Balasore, Darbhanga, Shahabad, Jessore, Nadia and Bankura; and the decrease under the second in Howrah, Patna, Gaya, Midnapore and Hazaribagh.

False cases.

104. Including cases pending inquiry at the close of 1906, the number of cases found to be false, or in which complaints were dismissed during the year, was 40,118, or 17·1 per cent. of the number reported during the year. The percentage for 1906 was 16·6. Of the total in 1907, complaints were dismissed in 33,389 cases, or 1,036 more than in 1906. The number of cases declared to be false after trial or inquiry was 6,729, or 82 more than in 1906.

True cases.

105. Of the total number of cases under inquiry during the year, 194,468 were found to be true, and of these, 153,574 were brought to trial. Inquiries were pending at the close of the year in 8,562 cases. Compared with 1906, the number of cases found to be true shows a decrease of 549, and of cases brought to trial, an increase of 5.

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—Magistrates' Courts.

Total cases for trial.

106. Of the total number of cases brought to trial, 40,165 were in the Courts of the Police and Municipal Magistrates in the Presidency town, and 113,409 in the Courts of Magistrates in the mufassal.

Presidency Magistrates, Calcutta.

107. The number of cases brought before Presidency Magistrates, including the Municipal Magistrate, was more by 1,171 than in 1906. The number of cases under Special and Local Laws was 32,658, or 389 more than in 1906; while cases under the Penal Code rose from 6,725 to 7,507. The increase under the former head was most marked in offences under the Act for the

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, which rose from 5,969 to 7,660; in offences under the Calcutta Municipal Act, which rose from 7,926 to 8,888; and in offences under the Hackney Carriage Act, which rose from 1,138 to 1,462. The number of offences under the Police Act, however, fell from 14,341 to 12,305, and under the Port Act from 1,684 to 2,153. As regards offences under the Penal Code, there was an increase of 606 in prosecutions for offences affecting the public health, etc., and of 250 in those for offences against property.

Before Presidency Magistrates, other than the Municipal Magistrate, 29,799 cases were disposed of during the year, of which 28,436 were before Stipendiary Magistrates, 1,226 before Honorary Magistrates sitting singly, and 137 before Benches. In 1906, the same officers disposed of 29,968 cases, of which 28,648 were before Stipendiary Magistrates, 1,132 before Honorary Magistrates sitting singly, and 188 before Benches. There were 53 cases pending at the close of the year. Of the total number disposed of, 54 were committed to the High Court, and the remainder were finally decided by Magistrates; 1,746 being under ordinary, and the remainder under summary, procedure. The number of witnesses examined before the Police Magistrates was 15,709, against 13,263 in 1906, notwithstanding the decrease in the number of cases decided during 1907.

The number of cases brought before the Court of the Municipal Magistrate during the year was 10,358, of which 8,847 were cases under the Municipal Act. The number of cases disposed of was 10,348, of which 9,743 were decided under the summary procedure, and 18 cases remained pending at the close of the year.

Results of trials.

108. The aggregate number of persons under trial before the Presidency Magistrates, other than the Municipal Magistrate, was 32,951. Of the persons tried, 3,411 were acquitted or discharged, 29,382 were convicted, 5 died, 77 were committed to the Sessions, and 76 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of persons tried for offences under the Penal Code, 5,878 were convicted and 2,634 acquitted or discharged. The results of the trials before each class of Magistrates during the year are shown below:—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of conviction.
Stipendiary Magistrates	3,039	28,167	90·2
Benches of Magistrates	112	71	38·8
Honorary Magistrates sitting singly ...	260	1,144	81·4

Of the persons convicted, 1,724 were punished with rigorous imprisonment, the sentence in the case of three persons including terms of solitary confinement; 102 were punished with simple imprisonment; 25,230 with fine; and 402 with whipping. One hundred and twenty-six of the persons sentenced to fine, and 39 of those sentenced to whipping, were so sentenced in addition to other punishments. Twenty-five sentences of imprisonment were, in the case of youthful offenders, commuted to detention in a Reformatory School. One thousand five hundred and eight convicted persons were warned and discharged.

In addition to these sentences, 240 persons were required to furnish security for good behaviour, of whom 230 were imprisoned in default for terms not exceeding one year; 64 persons, convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace, were ordered to execute bonds to keep the peace; 119 persons were released on probation under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code; and various miscellaneous orders were passed under Special Laws in the case of 203 persons. The number of persons dealt with under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code, during the year, was the highest in the last decade, the figures for the two preceding years being 56 and 44, respectively. It is satisfactory to observe that it has been found possible to make much freer use of the power conferred by this section of releasing first offenders upon probation of good conduct.

Before the Municipal Magistrate, 12,374 persons were under trial during the year, of whom 11,671 were convicted, 672 were acquitted or discharged, 11 died, escaped, or were transferred for trial to other Courts, and 20 remained under trial at the close of the year. The number of witnesses examined was 4,288, or 1,560 more than in 1906. The percentage of

conviction was 94·5. Of the persons convicted, 6,760 were punished with fines, and the rest were ordered to comply with the various requirements of the rules and bye-laws of the Corporation.

II.—Magistrates outside Calcutta.

109. At the opening of the year, 2,946 cases, excluding cases of lunatics, were pending before Magistrates outside Calcutta. During the year, 113,463 cases, including references under sections 347 and 349, Criminal Procedure Code, were brought to trial, and 113,386 were disposed of, 2,951 remaining pending at its close. Cases brought to trial were less than in 1906 by 1,210. The decrease occurred in cases under Special and Local Laws. Under the Indian Penal Code, the largest increase was in offences by or relating to public servants and in offences affecting the public health, etc., and the largest decrease in those against the public tranquillity. The variations under the other heads call for no remark. Total cases for trial.

A decrease in the number of cases instituted is reported from 17, and an increase from 14, districts. The decrease was marked in Howrah (1,683), Hazaribagh (767), Gaya (700), Patna (683), Ranchi (602), Midnapore (470), and Puri (460), while the increase was greatest in the 24-Parganas (2,708), Bhagalpur (542), Shahabad (509), and Nadia (498).

The disposals were distributed as follows:—

	Tried regularly.	Tried summarily.
District Magistrates	651	71
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates ...	57,130	26,013
Honorary Magistrates	12,761	991
Benches of Magistrates	5,830	9,825
Special Magistrates	2	...

Of the 651 cases tried regularly by District Magistrates, 24 were decided, in the exercise of special powers under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, by the Deputy Commissioners of the Chota Nagpur Division and the Sambalpur District, this being a decrease of 8 on the figures for 1906.

In addition to the cases shown above, District and Subdivisional Magistrates decided 112 cases referred to them under sections 347 and 349 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The number of cases decided during the year was less than the number decided in 1906 by 1,020. This decrease is distributed among District Magistrates, Honorary Magistrates and Benches of Magistrates. There was, on the other hand, an increase of 3,493 in the number of cases decided by Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates.

The total number of cases disposed of by District Magistrates was 834, as compared with 1,018 in 1906. The largest number of cases was decided by the District Magistrates of Puri (174), Gaya (143), and Bankura (105). The District Magistrates of Hooghly and Jessore did not dispose of any criminal cases.

110. Of the total number of cases disposed of, 1,174 were committed or referred to the Sessions, and 112,212 were finally disposed of by Magistrates. In these latter, 156,460 persons were accused, this number being 2,669 less than that of 1906. Of the total, 91,444, or 58·4 per cent., were convicted, and 65,016, or 41·6 per cent., were acquitted or discharged. In 1906, 59 per cent. of the persons tried were convicted. Results of Trials.

Of the persons tried for offences under the Indian Penal Code, 35,872, or 40·5 per cent., were convicted, and 52,483, or 59·5 per cent., were acquitted or discharged.

The total number of persons awaiting trial before Magistrates at the close of 1907 was 6,529, as compared with 5,725 of 1906. Of these, 89, of whom 46 were on bail, were awaiting trial for more than six months. Of the remaining 43 persons, 22 charged with offences under sections 392 and 365 of the Indian Penal Code were undergoing imprisonment in other cases in which they had been previously convicted; and 21 involved in proceedings under section 110 of the Code of Criminal Procedure were in custody. The

number of persons in custody at the close of the year was 825 against 584 at the close of 1906.

The general result of trials before Magistrates of each class was as follows:—

	Acquitted or discharged.	Convicted.	Percentage of convictions.
Benches of Magistrates ...	5,518	12,823	69·9
Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates ...	51,697	67,597	56·6
Honorary Magistrates	7,196	10,537	59·4
Special Magistrate	1	1	50
District Magistrates	604	486	44·5

Of the persons shown as convicted above, the numbers tried summarily were, by Benches of Magistrates, 9,372; by Subordinate Stipendiary Magistrates, 27,804; by Honorary Magistrates, 861; and by District Magistrates, 93.

The mode of trial of the total number of persons convicted and the nature of the sentences passed were as follows:—

	Appealable sentence.	Non-appealable sentence.
On Regular trial	41,630	11,684
On Summary trial	7,072	31,058

Punishments.

111. The sentences passed on persons convicted were as follows:—

Imprisonment ...	Rigorous	18,044
	Simple	589
Fine	With imprisonment	2,529
	Without imprisonment	67,619
Whipping	Sole punishment	976
	Additional punishment	229

A term of solitary confinement was included in 275 of the sentences of rigorous imprisonment, and in the case of 49 youthful offenders, the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to detention in a Reformatory School. Two thousand one hundred and thirty-two persons were called upon to give security to be of good behaviour, 2,050 of whom were sentenced to terms of imprisonment not exceeding one year on failing to comply with the orders. The provisions of section 562, Criminal Procedure Code, in regard to the release of first offenders on probation of good conduct, were resorted to more freely, as 268 persons were so dealt with in 1907 as against 223 in 1906 and 199 in 1905. Against persons who had previously been so released, proceedings were subsequently taken in 68 instances, and 76 persons were convicted and punished. In addition to substantive punishments, 2,562 persons were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, of whom 996 were convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace.

Of the sentences of imprisonment imposed, 4,026 were for terms not exceeding 15 days; 12,208 for terms not exceeding six months; 4,373 for terms not exceeding two years; and 28 for terms exceeding two years.

Sentences of whipping were passed on 1,205 persons, as against 1,226 in the preceding year.

The fines imposed aggregated Rs. 5,08,683. During the year, Rs. 4,49,243 were realised; and Rs. 54,385 were paid as compensation to complainants out of the fines realised.

Miscellaneous Proceedings. Chapter VIII, Criminal Procedure Code.

112. In addition to criminal trials, the following were the more important classes of work dealt with by Magistrates in the mufassal during the year.

There were 1,222 proceedings under Chapter VIII, Criminal Procedure Code, to prevent a breach of the peace, in which 5,142 persons were involved. The number of cases and the persons involved therein were less than the number brought before the Courts in 1906. Of the persons concerned, 1,566 were required to execute bonds to keep the peace, in addition to the persons mentioned in the preceding paragraph as having been similarly bound down on conviction. The number of persons dealt with under this chapter was largest in Khulna (695), Howrah (621), Murshidabad (323), the 24-Parganas (317), and

Midnapore (300). In Khulna, there was a very large decrease in the number of proceedings of this class, while the figures show a considerable increase in Murshidabad, Midnapore and Howrah, compared with 1906.

In 1,490 cases, 3,222 persons were called upon to show cause why they should not give security to be of good behaviour, and the orders were made absolute against 2,390 of them. Of the latter, 2,308 failed to give the required security and were imprisoned in default, 258 after reference to the Court of Session under section 123 of the Code, and 2,050 under orders of Magistrates for terms not exceeding one year.

Proceedings for the abatement of nuisances under Chapter X of the Code were taken in 631 cases, and in the cases of 33 persons, a reference was made to a Jury under section 138 of the Code. The number of cases under Chapter XII of the Code involving questions of the possession of land decided by Magistrates during the year was 1,865, an increase of 219 on the figures for 1906.

Under section 250 of the Code, 869 complainants were ordered to pay compensation to accused persons, the accusations brought by them having been found to be frivolous or vexatious. Proceedings for maintenance under Chapter XXXVI of the Code were taken against 924 persons, and orders were made absolute against 276.

Witnesses.

113. The number of witnesses examined in the Courts of Magistrates in the mufassal was 318,935, as compared with 328,557 in 1906. The number who attended and were discharged without examination was 119,472, or 27·2 per cent. of the whole number in attendance. In the preceding year, the percentage was 26·5. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses of their attendance rose from Rs. 48,882 in 1906 to Rs. 50,724 in 1907.

Of the total number in attendance, 345,167 (78·7 per cent.) were discharged on the first day; 67,716 (15·4 per cent.) on the second; 18,206 (4·2 per cent.) on the third; and 7,318 (1·7 per cent.) after the third day. The number of witnesses detained for more than three days was 602 less than the number so detained in 1906. This improvement is, however, insignificant, in view of the much smaller number of witnesses examined during the year under review.

The districts in which the largest proportion of witnesses were detained for more than three days were Birbhum (5·4 per cent.), Gaya (4·8 per cent.), Muzaffarpur 4·2 per cent.), Sambalpur (4·1 per cent.), Monghyr (3·4 per cent.), Shahabad (2·7 per cent.), and Patna (2·4 per cent.).

III.—Courts of Sessions.

Commitments.

114. The number of cases committed for trial or referred during the year was 1,174, or 129 less than in 1906; and the number of cases disposed of, including pending cases of the previous year, was 1,155, which is also less than the number disposed of in 1906 by 121. There were 129 cases pending at the close of the year. The principal decreases in commitments occurred in the following districts:—in Saran from 65 to 35, in Manbhum from 49 to 22, in Birbhum from 46 to 21, in the 24-Parganas from 108 to 88, in Ranchi from 48 to 28, in Murshidabad from 39 to 21, in Hazaribagh from 34 to 16, in Bhagalpur from 71 to 54, and in Gaya from 42 to 26. On the other hand, the returns of 12 districts show an increase in the number of commitments, etc., the most pronounced being in Monghyr from 45 to 68, in Jessore from 41 to 58, in Sambalpur from 3 to 12, and in Nadia from 31 to 39. The numbers in Darbhanga, Burdwan, Balasore, Darjeeling and Palamau, were the same as in 1906, and, as in that year, the number of commitments was largest in the 24-Parganas (88).

Result of trials.

115. There were 2,884 persons, or 388 less than in 1906, under trial before Courts of Session during the year. The cases of 2,550 persons were decided, and 324 remained under trial at the close of the year. Of the 2,550 persons tried, 1,566, or 61·4 per cent., were convicted, and 924 were acquitted or discharged, and the cases of 60 persons were referred to the High Court under sections 307 and 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

Prosecutions in the Sessions Court of the Gaya District were noticeably unsuccessful as, out of 55 persons tried, 40 were acquitted.

Punishments.

116. The following sentences were passed by the Courts of Session during the year:—

Death		34
Transportation	For life	82
	For a term of years ...	34
Imprisonment	Rigorous	1,178
	Simple	5
Fine		38
Whipping		14

In the case of 56, out of the 1,178 persons sentenced to rigorous imprisonment, the sentences included terms of solitary confinement; and in the case of two youthful offenders, the sentence of imprisonment was commuted to detention in a Reformatory School. Additional punishments were inflicted upon 36 of the persons sentenced to fine, and on 12 of those sentenced to whipping. Besides the above, 258 persons were sentenced to rigorous or simple imprisonment (20 for terms not exceeding one year and 238 for terms between one year and three years) on failure to furnish security for good behaviour, and 21 persons, who had been convicted of offences involving a breach of the peace, were required to execute bonds with sureties to keep the peace in addition to their substantive punishment.

Sentences of imprisonment were passed for the following terms:—

Not exceeding	15 days	3
	6 months	120
	2 years	394
	7 „	856
Exceeding 7 years		66

Fines to the amount of Rs. 14,041 were imposed by Courts of Session, as compared with Rs. 4,282 imposed in the preceding year. The total realizations of the year aggregated Rs. 3,324, as compared with Rs. 470 in 1906. The amount of fines realized and paid as compensation to complainants was Rs. 1,528 in 1907, as compared with Rs. 16 in 1906.

Jury trials.

117. The number of persons tried by Jury during 1907 was 680; and of the persons so tried, the Sessions Judge approved of the verdict of the Jury in respect of 626 persons, and disapproved of it in respect of 54.

In the case of 26 persons, the Sessions Judge disagreed with the verdict so completely as to consider it necessary for the ends of justice to make a reference to the High Court under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. The results of these references are given under the head "Superintendence, Reference and Revision."

Trials by Assessors.

118. The number of persons tried with the aid of Assessors during the year under review was 1,422, with the result that in the case of 1,064 persons the Sessions Judge concurred with the opinion of both the Assessors; in the case of 150 he differed from the opinion of one; and in the case of 208, he differed from the opinion of both the Assessors. The corresponding figures for 1906 were 1,566, 1,211, 147 and 208, respectively.

Duration of cases.

119. The average duration of Sessions trials, from the date of commitment to the date of decision, rose from 33·8 days in 1906 to 35·1 days in 1907. This increase in the average duration of Sessions trials is unsatisfactory, in view of the fact that the number of witnesses examined was less than in 1906 by 1,646. The duration of cases was notably high in the districts of Sambalpur (56 days), where, however, there was a perceptible improvement as compared with the previous year; Darjeeling (53·3 days); the 24-Parganas (53·1 days); Purnea (48·6 days); Balasore (48·3 days); and Gaya (43·7 days). The increase in the 24-Parganas District is particularly unsatisfactory, as the Sessions work in that district was considerably lighter in 1907 than in 1906.

Witnesses.

120. The number of witnesses in attendance before the Courts of Session was 15,877. Of these, 11,344 were examined, and 4,533 discharged without examination. In 1906, the corresponding figures were 12,990 and 6,206, respectively.

Of the total number in attendance, 8,683 (54·7 per cent.) were discharged on the first day; 3,840 (24·2 per cent.) on the second day; 1,622 (10·2 per cent.) on the third day; and 1,732 (10·9 per cent.) after the third day. The proportion of witnesses discharged after the third day is practically the same as in 1906. The long detention of witnesses may, in some degree, be ascribed to the protraction of Sessions trials consequent on the increase in the strength of the district Bars. The amount paid to witnesses on account of the expenses incurred by them in attending Sessions trials was Rs. 24,971, as compared with Rs. 25,584 in 1906.

Commitments to the High Court.

121. Excluding the cases of six lunatics, seven cases were pending at the opening of the year, and 56 cases were brought to trial in the High Court during the year. Of these, 59, inclusive of the case of a European British subject committed by the Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling, were tried during the year, and four remained undecided at its close.

Altogether 87 persons were tried, of whom 62 were convicted and 25 acquitted. The number of witnesses examined was 546, and the average duration of cases from commitment, 45·5 days.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Appeals.

122. At the opening of 1907, there were 32 appeals pending before the High Court from sentences or orders of Criminal Courts. During the year, 615 appeals were preferred, and the same number was decided, leaving 32 pending at its close. The numbers preferred and decided were 74 and 87 less, respectively, than in the preceding year. The pending file was the same as at the close of 1906.

Of the appeals against sentences preferred during the year, 522 were from Courts of Session, 79 were from Presidency Magistrates, and 8 from Deputy Commissioners exercising special powers under section 34 of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Six appeals were preferred by the Local Government against orders of acquittal.

Results of appeals.

123. There were 518 appeals against sentences of Courts of Session decided during the year. The orders of the Lower Courts were upheld in 424 instances, reversed in 16 and modified in 74. Four cases were remanded for re-trial.

Eighty-four appeals from the orders of Magistrates of the Presidency town were decided during the year, the orders being affirmed in 76 cases, reversed in 3 and modified in 4. One case was remanded for re-trial. Seven appeals from sentences of Deputy Commissioners were decided during the year, the orders being confirmed in 5 cases and modified in 2.

The results of the appeals decided during the year, as affecting individuals, were that the appeals of 796 persons were summarily dismissed under section 421 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and that, in admitted appeals, sentences on 120 appellants were confirmed, on 1 enhanced, on 106 reduced or altered, and on 58 annulled. In the case of 10, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered.

Six appeals by the Local Government against orders of acquittal were decided during the year. One appeal was rejected, and in another the order of acquittal passed by a Deputy Magistrate was upheld, but the order of the Lower Court awarding compensation to the accused was set aside. In the remaining four cases, the orders of acquittal passed by Sessions Judges on appeal were reversed by the High Court, and the orders of the Courts who originally tried the appellants were restored, with a modification of the sentences in two instances. The offences charged in these four cases were those of receiving an illegal gratification, rioting, lurking house-trespass, and a breach of the Excise Act, respectively.

II.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

124. There were 119 appeals pending before the Courts of Session at the opening of the year. During the year, 3,430 appeals were preferred, 3,426 were decided, and 119 remained pending at its close. Four appeals were

either transferred to other districts for hearing, or abated on the death of the appellants. The number of appeals preferred was 164 less than in 1906. In the appeals decided during 1907, 5,496 persons were concerned. The appeals of 2,024 of these, or 36·8 per cent., were summarily dismissed; 1,554 appellants, whose appeals were admitted, were altogether unsuccessful; 698 obtained a reduction or alteration of sentence; and 1,126 were acquitted; in the case of 93 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. The case of one appellant was referred to the High Court for enhancement of sentence.

The proportion of persons whose appeals were wholly unsuccessful, successful in obtaining a modification of the original orders, and successful in obtaining their reversal, was 65·1, 12·7 and 20·5, respectively. Of those concerned in admitted appeals only, the same proportions were 44·7, 20·1 and 32·4 per cent. Taking into account admitted appeals only, these results were on the whole slightly more favourable to appellants than those of the previous year.

Magistrates' Courts.

125. In the Courts of Magistrates there were 178 appeals pending at the opening of the year. During the year, 3,581 appeals were preferred, 3,565 were decided, and 192 remained pending at its close. Two appeals were transferred to other districts for hearing. The number preferred was less than in 1906 by 55.

The number of persons whose appeals were decided by Courts of Magistrates was 6,235. Of these, the appeals of 1,094 were summarily dismissed, and the sentences on 2,836, whose appeals were admitted, were confirmed; making a total of 3,930 wholly unsuccessful appellants, or 63 per cent. Of the remainder, 759 appellants, or 12·1 per cent., obtained a modification of the sentences passed on them, and 1,498, or 24 per cent., their total annulment. In the case of 48 appellants, a new trial or further inquiry was ordered. These results were slightly less favourable to appellants than those of the previous year.

SUPERINTENDENCE, REFERENCE AND REVISION.

I.—High Courts

References under section 307, Criminal Procedure Code.

126. Three references under section 307 of the Code of Criminal Procedure from verdicts of Juries were pending in the High Court at the opening of the year, and 19 were made during the year. Twenty-one of these references were decided during the year, one remaining undecided at its close. The result of the 21 cases disposed of was that the verdict of the Jury was accepted in 6 cases, set aside in 13, and modified in one. One case was remanded for re-trial.

References under section 374, Criminal Procedure Code.

127. Twenty-nine references under section 374 of the Code of Criminal Procedure for confirmation of death sentences were made to the High Court during 1907, and 2 were pending before the Court at the opening of the year. Twenty-seven were decided during the year, and four were pending at its close. In the references decided, 32 persons were concerned. Of these, death sentence on 21 was confirmed, and in the case of five, their sentence was commuted to transportation for life. In the case of four persons, a sentence of seven years' rigorous imprisonment was substituted, the accused having been convicted by the High Court of a minor offence. The remaining two persons were acquitted.

References under section 341, Criminal Procedure Code.

128. The cases of five persons, who, though not insane, could not be made to understand the proceedings, were referred for the orders of the High Court and disposed of during the year. In two cases the convictions were approved; in one case the accused was acquitted; one case was remanded for re-trial; and in the case of the remaining accused who was convicted of the offence of lurking house-trespass, the High Court did not consider it necessary to inflict any formal punishment on the accused in the circumstances reported by the Court making the reference.

Revision.

129. During the year, 167 cases were reported for the orders of the High Court by Sessions Judges and District Magistrates under section 438 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, and eight were pending at the opening of the year. Of those, 171 were decided and four remained pending. The number reported

was 21 more than in 1906. In 83 cases, the orders sent up for revision were set aside or the proceedings quashed, and in 25, a new trial was ordered. Sentences were reduced or altered in 10 cases and enhanced in 2. In the remaining 49 cases, the High Court declined to interfere. In one case, the reference was recalled by the Court making it, and in another case, the reference was returned as it was not made in the proper form.

Under section 435 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, orders were passed in 993 cases, an increase of 39 on the figures of the previous year. The number of cases in which the High Court acted under section 435 of the Criminal Procedure Code was the highest in the decade and represents a large increase on the corresponding figures for 1898 when the number of orders so passed was 571. Of the 993 cases dealt with in 1907, 983 came before the High Court on applications made to it, and 10 were taken up on review of the periodical Sessions Statements submitted by Sessions Judges.

Of the applications for the issue of rules, 598 were rejected. Of 385 rules issued, 116 were finally discharged, 171 were made absolute in their entirety; the orders complained of were modified in 65 cases and quashed in 4; in 28 cases, a new trial was ordered; and in the remaining case, the record was returned with certain observations for the guidance of the Magistrate.

In 7 of the 10 cases taken up by the High Court on review of Sessions Statements, the orders passed by the Lower Court were not disturbed; in 1, the sentence was reduced; and in 2 it was enhanced.

Applications for transfer.

130. Eighty-six applications under section 526 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, for the transfer of cases (75 original cases and 11 appeals) from one Court or district to another were on the files during the year. Of these, 82 were dealt with during the year, and 4 remained pending at its close. Thirty-five were summarily rejected, and in 6 cases transfers were granted without the issue of a rule. In 41 cases, rules were issued with the result that transfers were granted in 30 and refused in 11 cases.

II.—Courts Subordinate to the High Court.

Sessions Courts.

131. Including accused persons who themselves applied for revision of the order passed on them in the Courts of Magistrates, and accused persons against whom such applications were made by complainants, the cases of 3,219 persons were decided on revision by Courts of Session during the year. The number was more than in 1906 by 222. The applications of 1,471 persons were rejected, and as regards 703, the orders of the Lower Court were confirmed. Orders passed in the cases of 58 persons were reversed; in 23 instances proceedings were quashed; and the order of the Lower Court was modified in the cases of 2 persons. The cases of 258 persons were referred to the High Court, and in the cases of 704 persons, new trials or further inquiries were ordered.

Magistrates' Courts.

132. The cases of 2,572 accused persons who applied for revision, or against whom applications were made by the complainants, came before District Magistrates for revision. The number was greater by 180 than in 1906. Of the total, the applications of 1,320 persons were rejected, and in the cases of 327, the original sentence or order was upheld. Sentences or orders affecting 18 persons were modified, and those affecting 249 were reversed. In the cases of 21 persons, proceedings were quashed, and in those of 594, new trials or further inquiries were directed. The cases of 43 persons were referred to the High Court.

III.—General.

Trials of European British subjects.

133. The cases of 90 European British subjects were decided during the year, as against 95 in the previous year. Of these, 87 were by Magistrates, 2 by Courts of Session, and 1 by the High Court. Of the accused persons, three claimed to be tried by a mixed Jury.

In the cases of persons disposed of by Magistrates, 47 were convicted and 40 acquitted. The convictions were in 23 cases for offences under Special and Local Laws; in 8 cases for offences affecting the human body; in 10 cases for offences against property; in 3 cases for offences affecting the public health, etc.; in two cases for insult; and in the remaining case for defamation.

The two persons who were tried before the Court of Session were convicted of the offence of hurt and of receiving stolen property, respectively.

The case of the person decided by the High Court was committed by the Deputy Commissioner of Darjeeling for trial for an offence affecting life. He was convicted. The largest numbers of European British subjects were tried in Darjeeling (34), Howrah (21), the 24-Parganas (11), and Burdwan (8).

Inspection. 134. The Sessions work in Cuttack, Midnapore, Bankura, Bhagalpur, Saran, Darbhanga, the 24-Parganas, Birbhum and Burdwan came under the observation of the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Geidt, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Brett and the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Caspersz when inspecting the Civil Courts at those stations from the 3rd December 1907 to the 2nd March 1908. At Darbhanga, the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Geidt visited the Courts of the Magistrates and inspected some of their registers.

Receipts and Charges. 135. Debiting, as usual, to the Administration of Criminal Justice, a portion of the salaries of Judicial Officers fixed according to the time which their returns show them to have devoted to it, the total charges for the year amounted to Rs. 23,82,390. Of this amount, Rs. 14,62,439 were for the salaries of Judicial Officers; Rs. 1,11,146 for fixed and temporary copying establishments; Rs. 81,572 for process-servers; Rs. 3,71,128 for other establishments; and Rs. 3,56,105 for contingencies and refunds.

The receipts amounted to Rs. 11,86,655. Of this amount, Rs. 5,29,030 were under fines; Rs. 1,30,547 under process fees; Rs. 1,35,920 under copying and comparing fees; Rs. 2,85,046 under court-fee stamp receipts other than the above; and Rs. 1,06,112 were miscellaneous receipts. The receipts and charges exceeded those of 1906 by nearly five thousand and one lakh and twenty thousand rupees, respectively.

Criminal Justice in the Sonthal Parganas and Angul. 136. The number of cases brought to trial in the scheduled districts of the Sonthal Parganas and Angul (including Khondmals) was 6,603. The total number of persons under trial including those remaining from the previous year was 10,152, of whom 4,943 were acquitted or discharged and 4,858 convicted. Of the cases brought to trial, 1,084 were under "theft," 1,135 under "criminal force and assault," 757 under "criminal trespass" and 1,931 under "offences under special and local laws." The total number of appellants and applicants for revision was 558: of these 113 were wholly or partly successful in their applications.

Jails.

[Report on the Administration of the Jail Department for 1907. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Judicial.]

Jail population. 137. The total population of the jails of Bengal, which at the beginning of the year was 15,695, amounted to 15,264 at its close.

Mortality. 138. The daily average population was 15,274, as against 15,774 in 1906.

The death-rate calculated on the daily average number of all classes of prisoners was 17·5 per mille, against 23·7 in the preceding year. This was by far the lowest death-rate on record, the previous best being 19·5 in 1904. The figures of the mortality in the Bengal jails show a continuous improvement from 65 per mille in the five years 1875-1879 to 26 per mille in the five years 1900-1904, 24 per mille in 1905, 23 per mille in 1906 and 17·5 per mille in 1907. The mortality in the five jails, viz., Midnapore, Darjeeling, Naya Dumka, Purulia and Chaibassa, which in 1906 showed a death-rate of more than 40 per mille, was in every case below that figure in 1907. In Midnapore the death-rate fell from 55·2 in 1906 to 17·9 in the past year. A specially satisfactory feature in connection with this jail was the remarkable decline in the mortality from dysentery from 25·8 per mille in 1906 to 3·8 in 1907. There seems no reason to doubt that this decline was due to the investigations by Captain W. E. H. Foster into the causation of the disease and to the method of vaccine therapy introduced by him in the Midnapore Jail. The Krishnagar and Angul Jails showed the highest death-rates during the year, viz., 50·0 and 77·8 per mille respectively, the chief cause being the very unhealthy condition of the prisoners on admission. Although the number of cases of malarial fever increased from 4,853 in 1906 to 1,928 in 1907, the.

number of fatal cases was less than in the previous year. The figures in fact show a steady decrease in mortality since 1880, when the number of deaths was 6 per mille of the average jail population, as against 1·1 per mille in 1907. The figures for tubercle of the lungs were 218 admissions to hospital with 45 deaths, against 271 admissions and 64 deaths in 1906.

Discipline.

139. The total number of offences committed by convicts was 25,707, against 25,268 in 1906, while the punishments inflicted by Superintendents numbered 25,859, as compared with 25,384 in the preceding year. Three thousand and fifty-four major punishments were imposed. Corporal punishments have further decreased during the year under review, being only 83, as against 113 in 1906, 145 in 1905 and 182 in 1904. The ratio of floggings to the total number of punishments was 0·32, as against 0·44 in 1906. The jail showing by far the highest ratio of punishments was the European jail at the Presidency, where a very difficult and troublesome class of prisoners is received. Fourteen convicts escaped during the year, 8 from inside and 6 from outside the jails. Of these 11 were recaptured, criminally prosecuted and convicted.

Detention of under-trial prisoners in jails.

140. The average period of detention of undertrial prisoners in jails in both "Sessions" and "Other cases" was 27·46 and 15·63 days, respectively, against 29·12 and 17·84 days in 1906. In subsidiary jails the average period was 15·63 days, as compared with 15·21 days in the preceding year.

Jail manufactures.

141. The total earnings from manufactures in all jails amounted to Rs. 5,37,106-1, against Rs. 6,32,678-10 in 1906. The total cash earnings amounted to Rs. 3,50,581, as compared with Rs. 3,14,325 in the preceding year, and the average earnings per head to Rs. 40-7, as compared with Rs. 46-12. In the Alipore Central Jail, the divergence in the figures relating to net earnings for the years 1906 and 1907 was due to the fact that in the accounts for the year 1906 the value of goods in process of manufacture was erroneously taken into account as goods in stock.

General.

142. The Prisoners' Aid Society working in connection with the Presidency Jail was reported to have proved useful in the case of European prisoners in Calcutta. A similar Society was formed at Ranchi during the year.

Civil Justice.

Report on the Administration of Civil Justice in the Province of Bengal during the year 1907: Statistics of British India: Part VI—Judicial.]

Changes in Jurisdiction.

143. About four acres of land in Sathmera and Rupon jotes, forming part of the Darjeeling District in the judgeship of Purnea in Bengal, were transferred from that district to Jalpaiguri in the judgeship of Dinajpur, in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The figures for area and population are those of the census of 1901.

Judicial staff.

144. The permanent Civil Judicial staff employed in the Province during 1907 consisted of 14 High Court Judges; 19 District Judges; 2 Additional District Judges; a Chief Judge and four Judges of the Presidency Small Cause Court; 2 Provincial Small Cause Court Judges, who exercised also the powers of a Subordinate Judge; 37 Subordinate Judges; and 170 Munsifs. In addition, 8 Executive Officers exercised the powers of a Subordinate Judge or Small Cause Court Judge, and 4 the powers of a Munsif.

During the year the permanent Judicial staff in the district and Subordinate Courts was increased by the addition of one Subordinate Judge and one Munsif. The Subordinate Judge was added to the permanent staff of the district of Cuttack for employment at Sambalpur. The Munsif was added to the permanent staff of Murshidabad for employment at Kandi, Lalbagh and Jangipur, where temporary assistance had been employed for a considerable period.

In addition to the permanent staff some temporary officers were employed during the year.

LIBRARY

ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

Original suits instituted.

145. The number of civil suits pending on the Original Side of the High Court at the end of 1906 was 1,178, including 32 pending suits received by transfer from other courts; and the number instituted during 1907 was 947, including 15 suits received by transfer from other courts and one remanded for retrial during the year, making a total of 2,125 for disposal in 1907. Of the suits instituted during 1907, 521 were for money or moveable property, 123 were mortgage suits, and 59 for immoveable property.

The value of suits for specific money-claims was Rs. 50,37,229-12-11½, as compared with Rs. 59,35,604-0-4 in the previous year.

Original suits disposed of.

146. The number of suits decided in 1907 was 1,287, and the number left undisposed of at the end of the year was 838. The number of suits under trial was 340 less than at the commencement of the year. There were 303 suits pending over one year, showing a decrease of 212 on the figures of the previous year.

Of the suits decided 333 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution: 132 were withdrawn with leave: 51 were determined by compromise: 59 were decreed on confession: 192 were decreed *ex-parte*: 9 were dismissed *ex-parte*: 12 were disposed of by reference to arbitration: 286 were decreed after contest: 177 were dismissed after contest.

Extraordinary Jurisdiction.

147. At the commencement of the year five suits were pending in the High Court in its Extraordinary Original Civil Jurisdiction, and one suit was transferred to it during the year. Two of them were disposed of during the year, and four remained pending at its close.

Probates and Letters of Administration.

148. There were disposed of during the year 407 petitions for Probate and Letters of Administration, and 4,139 interlocutory applications (including applications for the appointment of guardians under the Guardians and Wards' Act, for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the appointment of Receivers, for injunctions, for discovery of documents, for execution, etc.). Of the interlocutory applications, those for the appointment of guardians *ad litem*, for the discovery of documents, for special leave to file written statements after time, and for summonses as to chamber applications, were disposed of by the Registrar and the Master.

References to take accounts.

149. The number of references to take accounts, to make inquiries as to estates to be administered or partitioned, as to debts and incumbrances, as to allowances to be made for maintenance, on questions of title, on questions affecting minors in proposed terms of settlement, to settle conveyances, etc., pending at the commencement of the year was 115. Fresh references were directed by the Court in 286 cases. Of the total number of references, 247 were disposed of by the Registrar and the Official Referee and their Assistants.

Proclamations under section 287.

150. During the year, the Registrar settled the proclamations of sale by the Sheriff in the ordinary course of execution in 21 cases, in all of which it was found necessary to examine witnesses. He also settled 18 conveyances and inquired into the sufficiency of sureties in 34 cases under the Civil Procedure Code, and in 182 matters in which administration bonds were executed.

Appeals from the Original Jurisdiction.

151. The number of appeals from the Original to the Appellate Side of the Court pending at the commencement of 1907 was 11, and 72 new appeals were preferred, and 3 revived during the year. Of these appeals, 22 were dismissed for default and 39 were decided; the decrees of the Court of First Instance were affirmed in 28 cases and reversed in 10; and one case was remanded for retrial. Twenty-five appeals remained undecided at the close of the year, of which one was pending more than two years.

Small Cause Court reference.

152. At the commencement of the year no such reference was pending, and none was made during the year under review.

Transfers from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes.

153. Twenty-seven cases transferred from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes under section 39 of the Presidency Small Cause Court Act were pending at the commencement of the year, and during the year 14 applications under that section were made to the High Court for transfer to that Court. All the applications were granted. Of the 41 cases for disposal, 6 were decreed and

3 dismissed after trial, 1 was decreed *ex-parte*, 1 was compromised, 5 were withdrawn with leave, and 13 were dismissed for default. The remaining 12 cases were pending at the close of the year.

Two applications under section 622 of the Code of Civil Procedure to call for records from the Calcutta Court of Small Causes were pending at the commencement of the year, and 6 such applications were made to the High Court during the year. Of these, 2 applications were refused, in 3 cases the rule was discharged, and in 1 case the record was called for and the High Court directed a re-hearing by the Calcutta Small Cause Court. Two cases were pending at the close of the year.

154. The number of cases pending in the Insolvency Court at the commencement of the year was 207, and the number instituted during the year was 209. Of the 416 cases for disposal, 215 were disposed of, the adjudication being set aside or superseded in 54 cases, the insolvents obtaining relief in 160, and one case was struck off. Of the persons who sought relief in the cases disposed of, 115 were traders within the meaning of the Insolvency Act, 75 were private persons, and 25 were persons employed in public and other offices. Insolvency cases.

155. There were also disposed of during the year 16 applications for *ad interim* protection, and 1,121 applications of a miscelloneous character. Miscellaneous applications.

156. For the hearing of original suits and applications one Judge sat alone for 33 days, two Judges sat separately and simultaneously for 38 days, three Judges sat separately and simultaneously for 138 days, four Judges sat separately and simultaneously for two days, and a Division Bench consisting of two Judges sat for eight days. The Insolvent Court engaged the time of one Judge for 15 days. Appeals from the Original Side occupied a Bench of three Judges for 34 days, and a Special Bench of five Judges for two days. Duration of sittings.

157. Three appeals from the Original Side were pending from the previous year, but none was admitted during the year. The transcript record in these cases was transmitted to the Privy Council during the year. Appeals to the Privy Council.

158. The receipts and expenditure of the High Court on the Original Side during 1907 were Rs. 7,74,082 and Rs. 4,09,454, respectively. Receipts and Expenditure.

159. The number of bills taxed during the year was as follows:— Taxing Office.

Between Party and Party	...	...	...	618
,, Attorney and Client	...	...	...	350

The Court-fees for taxation during the year amounted to Rs. 18,847. This sum is also included in the item "Other fees realized by means of stamps."

II.—Civil Courts in the Mufassal Subordinate to the High Court.

160. The Sambalpur Civil Courts Act (Bengal Act No. IV), 1906, repealing the Central Provinces Courts Act, 1904, in the district of Sambalpur, and extending the Bengal, North-Western Provinces and Assam Civil Courts Act, 1887, to that district, came into force with effect from the 1st January 1907. The result of the introduction of this Act was to remove certain anomalies in the jurisdiction of the Courts of the district and to bring the judicial administration of Sambalpur into line with that of the rest of the province. Jurisdiction.

Thana Kaliganj was transferred from the jurisdiction of the Sadar Munsifi of the district of Jessore to the Jhenidah Munsifi in the same district.

161. The number of suits instituted in 1907 was 389,827, a decrease of 22,974 on the figures of the previous year. Original suits instituted.

The decrease was fairly evenly divided over all classes of suits, those for money and moveables, rent suits and title suits showing decreases of 5·4, 6·2, and 5·9 per cent., respectively. The number of rent suits instituted was 191,005, against 202,963 in 1906.

The total value of suits instituted in 1907 amounted to Rs. 7,50,66,507, showing an increase of over ninety-one lakhs over the total for 1906. The increase is due to the institution of several title suits of exceptionally high values in Gaya, Bhagalpur, Chota Nagpur and Saran.

162. In all the districts, with the exception of Saran, Chota Nagpur nd Darbhanga, there was a decrease in the number of suits instituted in 1907. Local distribution.

The decrease in institutions was most marked in Cuttack, Burdwan, Bhagalpur, Hooghly and Midnapore, and is ascribed to the fact that scarcity prevailed in most of the districts during the year under review.

Jessore and the 24-Parganas, with over 46,000 and 41,000, respectively, continue to occupy the first and the second place in respect of the number of institutions. The number of rent suits (27,171) in the former district, and of money suits (19,173) in the latter was the largest in the Province. In no other district did the suits instituted during the year reach 40,000.

In Midnapore institutions were between 30,000 and 40,000. The largest number of title suits (6,968) were instituted in this district. The second place in respect of the institution of title suits is occupied by the 24-Parganas, where this class of litigation has steadily increased from 2,032 in 1884 to 4,828 in 1907.

Institutions were between 20,000 and 30,000 in the districts of Bhagalpur, Nadia, Hooghly, Murshidabad and Cuttack; and between 10,000 and 20,000 in Saran, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Purnea, Burdwan, Birbhum and Bankura.

In Shahabad, Chota Nagpur and Patna institutions were between 5,000 and 10,000. Gaya, with 2,675, continues to show the lowest number of institutions.

Nature of suits instituted.

163. The majority of suits instituted were, as usual, for small sums as the following figures show:—

		Suits for money and moveables.	Suits under the Rent Law.	Title and other suits.
Not exceeding Rs. 10	...	16,201	54,439	2,872
Not exceeding Rs. 50	...	73,265	91,247	12,969
Not exceeding Rs. 100	...	28,527	25,403	9,750
Not exceeding Rs. 500	...	25,896	18,046	19,189
Exceeding Rs. 500, or value not stated		2,948	1,870	7,205
Total	...	146,837	191,005	51,985

In suits for money or moveables 60·9 per cent., and in rent suits 76·2 per cent., were for sums less than Rs. 50.

In suits under the Rent Law, 97·6 per cent. were for realisation of arrears of rent. Of the suits classified as title suits, 47·7 per cent. were mortgage suits, 39·2 for immoveable property, and 5·4 for specific relief. The suits which come under this head represent in value over two-thirds of the total litigation of the province. All the 36 suits instituted during the year, which were valued at over a lakh, were title suits.

Number of suits disposed of.

164. In addition to the 389,827 suits instituted during the year and the 70,145 suits pending trial from the previous year, there were 10,238 suits revived, or received on remand or review during the year, making a total for disposal of 470,210. The number of suits disposed of was 400,244, showing a decrease of 20,612 on the figures of 1906.

Of the total disposed of, 376,592 were disposed of by Munsifs, 11,133 by Subordinate Judges, 11,826 by Small Cause Court Judges and 693 by District and Additional Judges. The Munsifs' Courts are almost entirely responsible for the falling off in disposals, and as regards districts, the decreases in Muzaffapur (3,959), Cuttack (3,461), and Burdwan (3,249) are noticeable.

Results of suits decided.

165. In the suits disposed of during the year, plaintiffs were unsuccessful in 86,318 cases, or 21·6 per cent., of which 59,902 were dismissed for default; in 69,319 cases, or 17·3 per cent., a compromise was effected; and plaintiffs were successful in 244,607 cases, or 61·1 per cent. Plaintiffs were slightly less successful than in the preceding year.

Of the 67,262 suits decided on contest, 53,657, or 79·8 per cent., resulted in favour of plaintiffs, and 13,605, or 20·2 per cent., in favour of defendants.

Applications for retrial.

166. The proportion of applications for retrial to the number of cases which were dismissed for default, or in which decrees were made *ex-parte*, was 8·6, the number being 20,925 and 241,833, respectively. The applications were successful in 9,916 cases, or 47·3 per cent., the proportion being practically the same as in the previous year.

Suits decided by Munsifs.

167. The suits disposed of by Munsifs were 20,051 less than in the last year. The decrease is under both contested and uncontested suits, being 3,456 and 16,595, respectively, on the figures of the previous year.

The average number of suits disposed of by each Munsif employed throughout the year was 2,164. Disposals under the Small Cause Court procedure formed 25·7 per cent. of the total.

The number of contested suits disposed of by Munsifs in 1907 was 61,424, or 16·3 per cent. of the total. The average number of contested suits decided by each Munsif was 353. In suits under the ordinary procedure disposed of by Munsifs, the percentage of those contested was 17·4, and in suits under the Small Cause Court procedure, 12·9.

The number of cases decided by Munsifs under the ordinary procedure shows a decrease of 12,422 as compared with 1906.

Suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges.

168. The number of original suits disposed of by Subordinate Judges in 1907 was 11,133, a decrease of 150 on the figures of the previous year. The decrease was in cases decided under the ordinary procedure and occurred in both contested and uncontested suits. The number of suits decided under the ordinary procedure was 4,707, and under the Small Cause Court procedure 6,426; of these, 43·2 per cent. and 19·8 per cent., respectively, were contested. The percentages show a slight decrease, as compared with the previous year.

Suits disposed of by Small Cause Court Judges.

169. The Provincial Small Cause Courts disposed of 11,826 original suits, of which 2,253 were contested.

Average duration of cases.

170. The average duration of suits (contested and uncontested) decided during the past year by the several grades of courts is given in the following statement:—

		District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	Munsifs.	Small Cause Court Judges.
		Days.	Days.	Days.	Days.
Under ordinary procedure.	Contested	201	313	170	...
	Uncontested	156	187	87	...
Under Small Cause Court procedure.	Contested	...	59	57	57
	Uncontested	...	42	38	39

The results show a marked increase in the duration of cases tried under the ordinary procedure by District and Subordinate Judges, as well as by Munsifs.

Pending suits.

171. The number of suits pending at the close of the year was 69,904, as against 70,145 in the previous year. The reduction is insignificant, in view of the large decrease in the work coming before the Courts.

Of the pending cases, 609 had been pending for more than a year, 4,522 for more than six months, and 31,225 for more than three months. The figures show a further satisfactory decrease in the number of suits pending for more than a year, which is, however, as in the preceding year, entirely due to the figures for the Munsifs' Courts. Of the suits pending over one year, 174 were in the Courts of Munsifs, and 435 in the Courts of District and Subordinate Judges, the latter showing an increase of 25 over the figures of 1906.

The number of suits pending over a year was largest in Muzaffarpur (77), Darbhanga (74), the 24-Parganas (66), Hooghly (60), Cuttack (51), Gaya (50), and Bankura (45).

The increase in the number of long pending suits in Muzaffarpur is unsatisfactory, especially in the case of the Superior Courts, as an Additional Subordinate Judge was employed in that district for a longer period than in 1906. The district, however, suffered from frequent changes of District Judges during the year under review. In Bhagalpur and Darbhanga which showed the largest number of year old cases in 1906, the number of year old suits was considerably reduced during the year, while in the 24-Parganas and Bankura, the number was slightly larger than at the end of 1906. In Hooghly the number was slightly smaller than in the preceding year. The arrears in Gaya were largely due to special local conditions which have now been remedied, while no satisfactory cause has been assigned for those in Cuttack, though in this district there was a very considerable fall in the number of suits instituted during the year. The greater number of the long pending suits in

this district belonged to the Courts of the Munsifs whose files were permitted to slip into heavy arrears.

Execution proceedings.

172. There were 67,243 applications for execution of decrees pending from the previous year, and 273,382 such applications were made during the year. Realisation was complete in 106,596 cases and partial in 61,027. In 107,133 cases proceedings were returned as infructuous, and 60,985 remained pending at the close of the year. Execution proceedings in the district of Cuttack were most markedly unsuccessful, the percentage of totally infructuous proceedings being very high. The total amount realised in Courts other than Small Cause Courts was Rs. 1,59,24,011.

Debtors were imprisoned in 159 cases, moveable property was sold in 4,351, and immoveable in 47,723.

Miscellaneous cases.

173. The number of miscellaneous cases of a judicial nature instituted fell off from 57,136 in 1906 to 56,832. The number disposed of rose from 56,607 to 57,366, and the number pending from 13,634 to 13,727. Of the cases disposed of, 25,368 were withdrawn, compromised or confessed; 14,378 were decided *ex-parte*, and 17,620 were contested. Of the total number of applications disposed of after contest, 52·1 per cent. were granted. Of the pending cases, 110 had been pending more than a year, of which the largest number was in Hooghly (63), and Bhagalpur (33).

The miscellaneous cases of a non-judicial nature instituted during the year were 12,905 in number. Of these, about two-thirds were applications for the deposit of rent. Disposals numbered 13,015, and the pending file fell to 1,757. The number of applications for the deposit of rent was as usual highest in Hooghly (1,185), followed by the 24-Parganas (751), Midnapore (717), Bhagalpur (716), Jessore (715) and Shahabad (649). There was a large decrease in the number of cases of this class instituted in 1907.

III.—Calcutta Small Cause Court.

Number of suits.

174. The number of suits instituted and decided in the Presidency Court of Small Causes during 1907, and the number pending at its close, was 21,158, 23,015, and 1,679, respectively. Institutions show a decrease of 420, and disposals an increase of 564, as compared with the previous year. The number of pending suits was less than that in 1906 by 775.

The decrease in institutions was spread over all classes of suits, except those between Rs. 10 and Rs. 50 and over Rs. 1,000 in value. The increase of the latter was slight (36). The decrease was most marked in suits valued at between Rs. 100 and Rs. 500, which fell off from 4,184 to 3,656.

The total value of the litigation in the Presidency Small Cause Court was Rs. 34,73,285 during the year, as against Rs. 35,58,117 in the preceding year.

Average duration of cases.

175. The average duration of contested and uncontested cases in the year under review was 34·5 and 29·1 days, respectively, showing a considerable reduction when compared with the figures of 1906. This satisfactory result is stated to be due to the amended Rules of Practice which came into force from the 11th March 1907.

Mode of disposal.

176. Of the 23,015 suits disposed of during the year, 1,483 were dismissed for default or want of prosecution or were withdrawn with leave, 17,777 were decided without contest in the manner shown in the margin, 3,751 were decided after contest or upon reference to arbitration, and in four the plaint was either rejected or returned.

Compromised	6,430
Decreed on confession	3,999
Decreed *ex-parte*	7,332
Dismissed *ex-parte*	16
Total	17,777

Of the 1,679 suits remaining under trial at the close of 1907, 43 had been pending for more than three months, against 53 so pending at the close of the preceding year.

Execution of decrees.

177. Of the 35,930 applications for the execution of decrees dealt with in the Presidency Small Cause Court, of which 916 were pending from the previous year, 35,140 were determined and 790 remained pending at the close of the year. Of the latter, 322 were more than three months old. Of the applications disposed of, 29,543 resulted in whole or partial satisfaction of the decrees granted, 3,831 were returned as wholly infructuous, and 1,766 were transferred to other courts.

The total amount realised was Rs. 9,62,112, as compared with Rs. 9,42,127 in the previous year.

178. In order to enforce the execution of decrees, imprisonment was resorted to in 72 cases, and sale of moveables in 509. These figures show a decrease of 18 and 788 respectively on those of the preceding year. The number of cases in which the sale of moveables was ordered was the lowest in the past ten years. Coercive processes.

APPELLATE JURISDICTION.

I.—High Court.

179. Under section 15 of the Letters Patent, there were 72 appeals filed and 3 revived, during the year, and 11 were pending at its commencement. Of the total, 61 were decided, and 25 remained pending at the close of the year. The number of appeals disposed of was 7 less than in 1906. Of the number undecided, one was pending for more than two years, and the rest were pending for less than a year. One hundred and twenty-one Third Appeals were filed during the year, and 86 were pending at its commencement. Of these appeals, 123 were decided, and 84 remained pending at the close of the year. Appeals under the Letters Patent.

II.—Appeals from the Subordinate Civil Courts.

180. The number of First and Second Appeals from the decrees and orders of the Provincial Courts as Courts of Original and Appellate Jurisdiction, respectively, which came before the High Court and were decided during the past year, is shown in the margin. The figures include appeals from the Courts of the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The institutions of First Appeals from Decrees and of Second Appeals from Decrees and Orders were, respectively, 38, 386 and 9 more, and of First Appeals from Orders 4 less than in 1906. Appeals to the High Court from Subordinate Courts.

	Pending at the end of 1906.	Preferred.	Decided.	Pending at the end of 1907.
First Appeals.				
From Decrees ...	961	537	494	1,004
From Orders ...	362	283	297	348
Second Appeals.				
From Decrees ...	2,966	2,885	2,275	3,576
From Orders ...	112	280	187	205
Total ...	4,401	3,985	3,253	5,133

181. The disposals of First Appeals from Decrees and Orders and of Second Appeals from Decrees and Orders show a decrease of 130, 78, 839 and 136, respectively, on the figures of the previous year. The decrease in the number of First Appeals disposed of is mainly accounted for by the fact that two batches of analogous appeals consisting of 53 and 48 cases were disposed of in the year 1906. Appeals decided.

182. At the close of the year, there were pending 1,352 First Appeals, of which 1,004 were from decrees and 348 from orders, and 3,781 Second Appeals, of which 3,576 were from decrees. The total is more than the number pending at the close of 1906 by 732, and 148 less than at the close of 1905. Appeals pending.

183. Of the 494 Appeals from Original Decrees decided during the year, 64 were uncontested, being dismissed on default, withdrawn or compromised. Of those decided after contest, 255 decrees of the Lower Courts were confirmed, 64 reversed, 75 varied, and 36 remanded. Results of Appeals.

On the 2,275 Appeals from Appellate Decrees decided during the year, 125 were uncontested, and 777 were dealt with under section 551 of the Civil Procedure Code. One thousand three hundred and seventy-three were heard and determined, with the result that 918 decrees of the Lower Courts were affirmed, 182 reversed, 41 varied, and 232 remanded.

Of the 484 Appeals from Orders decided during the last year, 61 were uncontested, 89 were dealt with under section 551 of the Civil Procedure Code, and 334 were decided after trial. Of the last 219 orders of the Lower Courts were affirmed, 73 reversed, 8 varied, and 34 remanded.

The following table shows the result of appeals decided by the High Court as affecting District Judges and Subordinate Judges :—

		Affirmed.		Modified or Reversed.	
		District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.	District Judges.	Subordinate Judges.
Appeals from Original Decrees	...	84	171	62	77
Appeals from Appellate „	...	382	536	142	81
Miscellaneous Appeals	...	96	121	44	35

In 4 Miscellaneous Appeals from Orders of Munsifs, the High Court affirmed the order of the Lower Court in two instances and reversed it in the others.

Appeals to the Privy Council.

184. At the opening of the year 34 appeals to the Privy Council were under preparation for despatch to England, and 92 were pending for orders. Forty-three new appeals were filed during the year. Of the total for disposal, 39 were struck off or compromised, 11 were despatched to England, and 119 appeals—1 of 1902, 15 of 1905, 74 of 1906 and 29 of 1907—were pending at the close of the year. Of the pending appeals, 76 were under preparation for despatch to England at the close of the year.

Results of Appeals to the Privy Council.

185. The results of 11 appeals to the Privy Council were received during the year. The decisions of the High Court were affirmed in five instances, and reversed in four; and two appeals were remanded.

III.—Appellate Courts subordinate to the High Court.

Appeals instituted.

186. There were 12,925 appeals instituted in 1907—an increase, as compared with the previous year, of 731. The continued increase in the institutions of appeals is a noticeable feature of the year's litigation.

Of the number instituted in 1907, 5,680 were in rent suits, 5,639 in title suits, and 1,606 in suits for money or moveables. The number shows an increase in all the three classes.

The number of appeals valued at sums below Rs. 10 and between Rs. 10 and Rs. 50 was 1,142 and 3,501, respectively. The total value of the appeals instituted in the Subordinate Courts in 1907 was Rs. 30,19,677, being more than the total of 1906 by nearly five lakhs.

The number of cases in which an appeal lay, decided by Subordinate Courts during the year, was 47,783; and the proportion of appeals instituted to appealable decisions, excluding appeals from decisions of Revenue Officers, was 26·2 per cent. The highest percentages were 52·8 in Darbhanga, 47·3 in Shahabad, 46·2 in Gaya, 42·1 in Chota Nagpur, and 35·2 in Cuttack; and the lowest was 13·7 in Murshidabad.

The number of appeals instituted in 1907 was larger than in the previous year in eleven districts and smaller in eight. The largest increases were in Purnea (570), where about two-thirds of the appeals preferred were against the decisions of Settlement Officers under sections 105 and 106 of the Bengal Tenancy Act, Midnapore (125), Chota Nagpur (116), and Darbhanga (104); and the noticeable decreases were in Nadia (170) and Bhagalpur (156). In the remaining districts, the variations were less than 100.

Appeals disposed of.

187. The number of appeals decided (11,868) was smaller than in 1906 by 559. In the Courts of District and Additional Judges disposals fell off by 350, and in those of Subordinate Judges by 209, as compared with the previous year. The fall in the disposal of appellate work by District and Additional Judges was, however, in some degree, compensated by their larger outturn of original work.

The general decrease in disposals was spread over thirteen districts, the largest being in Cuttack (292), the 24-Parganas (225), Bhagalpur (205), Saran (181), Bankura (171), and Patna (150). The decline in disposals in Cuttack appears to be due to special local conditions of a temporary nature. In the 24-Parganas, the decrease is in some degree accounted for by the fact that in the year under review, additional staff was entertained for a much shorter period than in 1906. The result is disappointing in the case of Bhagalpur,

as an Additional Subordinate Judge was employed in that district for a considerable part of the year.

Appeals pending.

188. There were 6,683 appeals pending at the close of the year, the number being 1,437 more than at the end of 1906. The pending file of appeals was higher than at the close of any year in the last decade with the exception of 1902.

The number of appeals pending for more than one year increased during the year, there being at its close 121, as compared with 90 in 1906. The greater number of the appeals pending over one year were in Cuttack (92), where, owing to the congested state of the files, temporary assistance has been given by a special Additional Subordinate Judge whose employment was sanctioned after the close of the year.

Result of Appeals.

189. The result on the decisions of the Lower Courts of the appeals decided during the year was as follows:—In 6,206 cases, or 52·2 per cent. of the whole, the judgment of the Lower Court was affirmed; in 1,316 cases, or 11·1 per cent., it was modified; and in 2,249, or 18·9 per cent., it was reversed. The results are less favourable to the Lower Courts than those of the preceding year. Five hundred and ninety-seven appeals were remanded, and 1,500 were either not presecuted, or dismissed for default.

Miscellaneous Appeals.

190. There were 2,482 miscellaneous appeals instituted during the year, and 2,327 were disposed of, 635 remaining pending at the close of the year. The number pending is 197 more than that of the previous year.

General.

191. The year under review was marked by a large decrease in the number of original suits instituted in the mufassal courts, but, in consequence of disposals having fallen considerably below the number of the previous year, the pending file was only slightly smaller than at the end of 1906. It is, however, satisfactory to observe that a further reduction was effected in the number of suits pending for more than a year. The increase of appellate arrears in the Subordinate Courts is unsatisfactory, specially in the case of Subordinate Judges, whose outturn, in respect of both original and appellate work, was smaller than in the previous year. Notwithstanding a perceptible decrease of Sessions work, District and Additional Judges devoted to civil work 2,533 days, or 28 days less than in 1906. They disposed of fewer appeals during the year, but, as already noted, the number of original suits disposed of by them increased. The increase of institutions, together with a falling off in disposals, accounted for an increase of the pending appellate file of the High Court. The decline of disposals was due to the fact that, in addition to the services of the normal staff of Judges being available for a longer period in 1906, an extra Judge was employed during part of that year. During the year under review, the Chief Justice was absent on deputation from the 1st of June to the vacation, and no temporary appointment was made for this period.

Inspection.

192. Inspections of the civil courts in the mufassal were made by the High Court in 1907 and in the beginning of 1908.

The courts inspected were those at Gaya, Cuttack, Sambalpur, Puri, Midnapore, Bankura, Bhagalpur, Chapra, Darbhanga, Alipore, Birbhum and Burdwan.

The Courts of 12 Subordinate Judges and 64 Munsifs were inspected by District Judges during the year 1907. The total number of Courts inspected was less than in the previous year. This continued decrease in the number of inspections made by District Judges is a serious blot on the judicial administration of the province, but the High Court recognise that in certain districts the annual inspection of each Subordinate Court is rendered almost impossible by the incessant demands of urgent criminal and civil judicial business on the time of the District Judge. The District Judges of Purnea and Cuttack made no inspection at all during the year. The Court do not consider that any satisfactory reason existed for this total failure to carry out the rules. The attention of those District Judges whose inspections have been inadequate, has been called to the matter.

General powers under section 185A, sub-section 1, of the Civil Procedure Code.

193. By a notification of the Local Government, issued at the instance of the High Court, all Subordinate Judges and Munsifs, who are members of the Subordinate Judicial Service, were invested during the year with powers, under section 185-A, sub-section 1, of the Code of Civil Procedure, to take down evidence with their own hand in the English language in

cases in which an appeal is allowed. The High Court also issued instructions to the lower Courts, enjoining the more extended use of English in the records of Civil cases.

Receipts and Charges of the Civil Courts.

194. The receipts of the Civil Courts for the year under review amounted to Rs. 85,33,488, and the charges to Rs. 43,09,192. Including the amount realised on account of duty* on probates, etc., there was a profit to Government from civil litigation of Rs. 42,24,296, or Rs. 18,322 more than in 1906, and exclusive of the item referred to, the surplus amounted to Rs. 36,42,505.

	Rs.
In the High Court ...	(a) 4,07,460
In other Courts ...	(a) 1,74,331
	*5,81,791

(a) The figures are for the financial year 1907-1908.

Details of the receipts and charges are as follows:—

Receipts.		Rs.	*Charges.*		Rs.
In stamps	Process fees	15,57,396	Salaries of Judicial Officers		19,34,655
	Other fees	63,76,808	Establishment	Process-servers	4,31,084
In cash or special stamps.	Fines	1,658		Others	13,10,194
	Copying and comparing fees	3,61,752	Copyists' fees		2,91,508
	Other receipts	2,35,877	Contingencies and refunds		3,41,751
	Total ...	85,33,488	Total ...		43,09,192

Receipts show an increase on the previous year's figures of over seventy-six thousand, of which more than forty five thousand are under court-fees other than process fees. The increase in expenditure is under all heads except salaries of judicial officers, and is most marked in charges for process-servers which show an increase of over thirty-six thousand over the figures of 1906.

Administration of Civil Justice in the Scheduled Districts of Angul and the Sonthal Parganas.

195. The total number of suits instituted during the year in the Civil Courts in the scheduled districts of Angul (including the Khondmals) and the Sonthal Parganas) was 15,310. The number of money suits was 9,024, of rent suits 4,780, and of title and other suits 1,596. The total number of civil suits for disposal was 17,488. The number disposed of (including the number of suits transferred to Courts in other Provinces) was 15,203; of this number 3,334 suits were contested and 641 were disposed of by arbitration. The total number of appeals from decrees presented to the Civil Appellate Courts of the districts was 629 and the number disposed of was 551. Out of 97 Miscellaneous Civil appeals 85 were disposed of. Ten thousand nine hundred and ninety-six applications for the execution of decrees were made, and the number disposed of was 9,434.

Registration.

[Triennial Report on the Administration of the Registration Department for the years 1905, 1906 and 1907: Statistics of British India, Part II—Commercial, and Part IX—Administrative and General.]

Reorganization.

196. The important work of the reorganization of the ministerial establishment of the Sub-Registrars which formed part of the scheme sanctioned by the Secretary of State for India in 1905 was completed during the year 1907, and the *personnel* of each office definitely settled.

General.

197. The number of offices at the close of 1907 stood at 280 as against 277 at the end of 1906. The total number of registrations of documents affecting immoveable property, moveable property and wills increased from 922,712 in 1906 to 948,380 in 1907, *i.e.*, by 2·7 per cent., while the total income and total expenditure of the department increased, respectively, from Rs. 11,73,545 to Rs. 12,66,324 and from Rs. 5,89,628 to Rs. 6,44,869.

The increase in the number of registrations with the consequent increase in income was due to the dearness of food-grains, to the operation of Act VI of 1904 and to the Cadastral survey and settlement operations.

198. The number of registrations in Burdwan and Birbhum decreased in 1907 as compared with 1906, but increased in Midnapore, Bankura, Hooghly and Howrah. The increases were due to the large number of mortgages and leases effected and to the settlement of fallow and waste lands. **Registrations in the various divisions. Burdwan Division.**

199. Registrations increased in all the districts of the Division, except the 24-Parganas, where the decrease was ascribed to the comparatively good harvests in 1906 and to the extensive grant of loans by Government to agriculturists. Successive bad harvests since 1905 led to an increase in the number of registrations in the district of Jessore, although the rate of increase in registrations of obligations for the payment of money and perpetual leases was lower than in 1906. In the district of Murshidabad registrations of perpetual leases increased by 73·3 per cent. compared with the figures of 1906. The increase was attributed to the permanent settlement of Chaukidari and other lands by zamindars. **Presidency Division.**

In Calcutta, the increase in registrations is attributed to brisk trade, the thriving state of the coal industry and to the inordinately high price of food-grains.

200. In the four northern districts of the Division—Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur, Saran and Champaran—there was an increase in registrations in 1907, which was ascribed to the prevailing scarcity. **Patna Division.**

In the three southern districts, viz., Patna, Gaya, Shahabad, in spite of better conditions, the stress of high prices was felt, and a considerable increase occurred in registrations in each of these districts.

201. Except Monghyr and the Sonthal Pargans, all the districts of the Division showed a steady increase in registrations. In Bhagalpur the increase was ascribed to scarcity and to the registrations of several indigo contracts in the sub-division of Banka. In Purnea the expansion was very marked and is attributed to settlement operations and to high prices. In Darjeeling the increase was due chiefly to the registrations of a number of leases appertaining to an estate under the Court of Wards. **Bhagalpur Division.**

The decrease in Monghyr is not satisfactorily accounted for, though it is said that the grant of agricultural loans by Government and zamindars led to a fall in sales, mortgages and money bonds. The decrease in the Sonthal Parganas was due mainly to a decrease in small sales and money bonds.

202. Registrations fell off in Puri, but increased in the districts of Balasore and Cuttack in 1907, as compared with 1906. There were no striking variations in Angul and Sambalpur. **Orissa Division.**

203. In Singhbhum the figures for 1907 were slightly better than those of any of the preceding years since 1904. In Hazaribagh registrations declined owing partly to the operation of the amended Chota Nagpur Tenancy Act which indirectly affected the execution of bonds, and partly to the creation of Co-operative Credit Societies. In the district of Ranchi there was a remarkable increase of 22·3 per cent. in the number of registrations owing to the settlement operations, high prices and the opening of a new office at Lohardaga. In the district of Palamau there has been a continuous decline in registrations for 1905, a result which is not satisfactorily accounted for. Though there was an increase of perpetual leases, there were decreases of small sales and mortgages in Manbhum which was attributed to the heavy lac crop. **Chota Nagpur Division.**

204. The system of taking finger impressions for the identification of registrations was reported to have been effective in checking false personation **Finger impressions.**

205. The number of companies existing at the close of the year was 512, with an aggregate *nominal* capital of Rs. 36,30,64,209, and an aggregate *paid-up* capital of Rs. 20,54,65,731, against 446 companies with a nominal capital of Rs. 26,03,56,709 and a *paid-up* capital of Rs. 17,54,04,519 in the previous year. There was thus an increase of 66 companies, and of Rs. 10,27,07,500 in the nominal capital and Rs. 3,00,61,212 in the paid-up capital during the year. One Company, namely, The National Stores, Limited, with a nominal capital of Rs. 1,00,000, was transferred to the Registrar of the Joint Stock Companies of Eastern Bengal and Assam under the order of the Government of Bengal. **Working of the Indian Companies Act.**

The number of companies registered during the year was 80, with a total nominal capital and paid-up capital of Rs. 7,47,00,000, and Rs. 13,61,895, respectively. Of these, Coal Companies (48) formed the majority. The

number of new trading companies fell from 32 in the previous year to 14 in 1907-1908.

Two of the most important companies registered during the year are the Hindustan Bank, Limited, with a nominal capital of Rs. 2 crores and the Hindustan Co-operative Insurance Society with a nominal capital of Re. 1 crore. One Native Provident Society, viz., Swadeshi Assurance and Wedding Company, Limited, was registered with a nominal capital of Rs. 10,000.

One hundred and seven companies increased their capital during the year. Of these, two companies increased their nominal capital, 93 companies increased their paid-up capital, and twelve companies increased both their nominal and paid-up capital.

Thirteen companies having an aggregate nominal capital of Rs. 35,42,500 and a paid-up capital of Rs. 22,63,248 wound up their business.

Working of Act XXI of 1880.

206. The following societies were registered during the year under Act XXI of 1860:—

(1) J. M. Trading School.
(2) Society of St. Vincent de Paul.
(3) Calcutta Historical Society.
(4) The Calcutta Homœopathic College.
(5) Anglo-Indian Association.
(6) Lady Minto's Indian Nursing Association.
(7) Arrah Nagri Procharini Sabha.

The fees realised amounted to Rs. 32,658-2, against Rs. 22,262-12, and the expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,028-11-4, against Rs. 983 in the past year. The nett revenue therefore is Rs. 31,629-6-8 to the credit of Government, against Rs. 21,279-12 in the previous year.

Working of the Brahmo Marriage Act.

207. Of the 41 marriages registered during the year under review as against 39 in the previous year, 28 were registered in Calcutta, 3 in Howrah, 2 in Midnapore, 4 in Hazaribagh, and 1 each in Cuttack, Birbhum, Darjeeling and Patna. There were 19 Marriage Registrars under the Act in addition to 24 *ex-officio* Marriage Registrars. Of these, only 11 Marriage Registrars and 5 *ex-officio* Marriage Registrars registered marriages during the year. The ages of the bridegrooms ranged from 20 to 53, and those of the brides from 14 to 37 years. Six widows whose ages ranged from 18 to 37 years were remarried.

Working of Muhammadan Marriage Registration Act.

208. As in the two preceding years, Act I (B. C.) of 1876 for the voluntary registration of Muhammadan marriages and divorces was in force in 18 districts. The opening of two new offices—one at Naihati in the district of the 24-Parganas and one, as an experimental measure, at Fultala, in the district of Khulna—brought up the number of offices at work at the close of the year to 123, as against 121 of the previous year. There was a decrease of 2·6 per cent. in the total number of ceremonies registered, the figures falling from 3,852 in 1906-1907 to 3,750 in the year under review. The decrease was most marked in Calcutta and in the districts of Burdwan, Birbhum and Ranchi. There were 29 offices in which there was no work; for the remaining 94 offices, the average number of registrations was 39·9 in 1907-1908, as compared with 43 in the previous year.

Municipal Department and Local Self-Government.

[The Reports from the Commissioners of Divisions on the working of Municipalities in Bengal (except Calcutta) during the year 1907-1908 : Statistics of British India, Part VIII—Local Funds.]

General.

209. The number of municipalities in the Province during the year fell from 128 to 127, in consequence of the abolition of the Ulubaria Municipality in the district of Howrah. The creation of a new municipality at Khagaul was sanctioned with effect from October 1907, but it did not start operations during the year.

Collections.

210. There was a falling off in the percentage of total collections on current demand from 97·1 in the year 1906-1907 to 95·78 in 1907-1908. The decrease was shared by the municipalities in the Burdwan, Chota Nagpur, and Orissa Divisions. It was most marked in the last named Division, where

the percentage fell from 96·9 to 90·0, and where the result was probably due to the prevailing scarcity. The Presidency and Bhagalpur Divisions showed a slight improvement in this respect, while the Patna Division again returned the very creditable percentage of 99·9. Ten municipalities, as compared with 24 in the previous year, collected cent. per cent. or more of their current demand, the highest percentage (103·6) being attained in the Kamarhati Municipality in the district of the 24-Parganas. The lowest figure (75·1) was returned by Debhatta in the Khulna district. The aggregate outstanding balances rose from Rs. 1,62,910 to Rs. 2,17,775, which amounts to 6·1 per cent. of the current demand. The system of granting bonuses to collecting sarkars for good collections, which had been tried with success in the Burdwan Division, has recently been extended to all other Divisions; and it is expected that considerable improvement will be shown in this respect next year. The percentage of total remissions on current demand fell from 3·5 to 2·68, the highest percentage again being returned from the Bhagalpur Division (5·0).

Elections.

211. General elections were held in Cossipore-Chitpur, Maniktala, Tollygunge, North Barrackpore, Nadia and Jessore. The percentage of attendance of voters ranged from 69·6 to 38·4.

Attendance at meetings.

212. The total number of meetings held was 2,072, of which 126 were adjourned. The Municipalities of Cossipore-Chitpur and Kalna again held the largest number of meetings, viz., 48 and 56, respectively. The Lieutenant-Governor has expressed a doubt whether it is either necessary or desirable to call meetings so frequently as this. In Dumka, on the other hand, only 6 meetings were held, which is insufficient. The percentage of attendance of Commissioners was practically the same as in the previous year, viz., 55 per cent. On the whole, attendance was fairly satisfactory, an average of more than one-half of the total number of Commissioners having attended in the case of nearly three-fourths of the municipalities.

Assessment and taxation.

213. The rate on holdings was in force in 48 municipalities and in portions of 8 others; while the tax on persons was levied in 70 municipalities. In Kushtia and Berhampore the rate on holdings has since been introduced in lieu of the tax on persons. The triennial revision of assessment was due last year in the Arrah Municipality; but it was resolved to postpone proceedings in order to minimise the opposition of the rate-payers to the Arrah drainage scheme, towards which each rate-payer is being asked to contribute in instalments a sum equal to two years' taxation. With regard to the proposal to introduce the rate on holdings generally in the Darbhanga Municipality, the District Magistrate reported that the municipality consists largely of rural areas, where the houses are liable to collapse in times of flood and to be destroyed by fire, and that consequently no change in the system of assessment was desirable. The latrine rate was levied in 93 towns, a water-rate in 13, and a lighting-rate in 4. The average incidence of municipal taxation for the whole Province was Rs. 1-7-5, as compared with Rs. 1-5-11 in the preceding year. The incidence ranged from Rs. 9-14 per head in Darjeeling to annas 4-3 in Debhatta in the district of Khulna.

Revision of assessment.

214. In 84 municipalities revision of assessment took place. Substantial increases were obtained in the following towns:—

Name of Municipality.	Increase of revenue.
	Rs.
Howrah	2,21,814
Cossipore-Chitpur	16,404
Darjeeling	9,577
Puri	5,331
Barh	3,601
Bhatpara	2,988
Patna	2,948

The revision of assessment in Howrah aroused considerable opposition, and several memorials were addressed to Government, complaining of the manner in which it had been carried out. The objections raised were carefully considered by the Lieutenant-Governor, and in rejecting them, His Honour came to the conclusion that credit was due to the Chairman and the Municipal

Committee for the manner in which the difficult task had been performed. In Berhampore, the financial condition of which is not satisfactory, the tax on holdings was introduced and a general revision of assessment was made on the valuation principle. An increase in income was obtained, but this was largely reduced by the Appeal Committee. Having regard to the unsatisfactory proceedings of the Commissioners in this matter, a fresh assessment has been ordered by Government under section 111A of the Act, under threat of supersession.

Fresh imposts levied during the year.

215. In Patna the keepers of hackney carriages were for the first time made to take out licenses for their stables; and in Chapra the provisions of the Hackney Carriage Act were brought into operation. Fees under Part IX of the Act (latrine fees) were levied for the first time in the Vishnupur and Murshidabad Municipalities. Fees under section 187 of the Act, for the removal of the contents of cess-pools, were for the first time levied at Bhadreswar.

Income and expenditure.

216. The total receipts of the municipalities, including the opening balances, amounted to Rs. 67,96,298, against Rs. 61,91,760 in 1906-1907. The increase occurred chiefly under the following heads: municipal rates and taxes (Rs. 2,27,054), grants and contributions (Rs. 1,41,722), extraordinary and debt (Rs. 1,09,630), and opening balance (Rs. 1,19,034). The total disbursements amounted to Rs. 54,48,563, against Rs. 51,41,558 in the previous year.

Closing balances of municipalities.

217. The closing balances aggregated Rs. 13,47,735, against Rs. 10,50,202 in 1906-1907. The bulk of this increase represents the unspent balances of the loans and contributions received from Government. The heavy balance in Bhagalpur, viz., Rs. 1,52,149, was explained as due to Rs. 1,14,500 being earmarked for expenditure on the improvement of the water works out of a special Government grant of Rs. 91,000 and a loan of Rs. 85,500.

INCOME.

Income.

218 The total revenue receipts of the municipalities during the year, excluding the receipts under "Extraordinary and Debt," amounted to Rs. 46,22,166, against Rs. 42,46,298 in 1906-1907. The bulk of the increase took place in the Burdwan and Bhagalpur Divisions.

Octroi tax.

219. This tax is levied only in the Sambalpur Municipality, where it gave a net income of Rs. 22,344, against Rs. 29,276 in the preceding year.

Tax on houses and lands.

220. The total increase under this head over the receipts of the previous year was Rs 98,043. Of this sum Howrah contributed Rs. 63,161.

Tax on animals and vehicles and receipts from ferries.

221. The receipts varied but little from the figures of the preceding year. The Patna and Chapra ferries had to be settled at reduced rents, resulting in a decrease of revenue by Rs. 1,986 and Rs. 489, respectively. In Revelganj the income declined by Rs. 4,119, owing partly to the demand for 1907-1908 having been paid in advance in the preceding year and partly to large arrears having been realized in that year. The receipts from the Azimganj-Berhampore ferry also declined owing to continued drought and also to the opening of the Ranaghat-Murshidabad railway line, which diverted traffic from the ferry. On the other hand, there was an increase of Rs. 2,968 under this head in Muzaffarpur, effected by reducing the cost of maintenance. Smaller increases occurred in a few other municipalities.

Water rate.

222. This tax was in force in 13 municipalities as in the two previous years, and yielded an increased revenue of Rs. 53,669. The largest increase occurred in Howrah (Rs. 49,891), and was due to the revision of assessment. There were also increases in Berhampore (Rs. 2,338), Burdwan (Rs. 1,715) and Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 1,009). Arrah showed a decline of Rs. 2,929, which was, however, nominal, since the receipts of the previous year included a heavy collection of arrear demand.

Lighting-rate.

223. This rate is levied only in four municipalities, viz., Howrah, Darjeeling, Cossipore-Chitpur, and Maniktala. The aggregate increase in the receipts over those of the previous year amounted to Rs. 44,010, of which Rs. 20,114 were contributed by Howrah, Rs. 13,634 by the municipalities of Cossipore-Chitpur and Maniktala, and Rs. 10,262 by Darjeeling. The increase

in Darjeeling was attributed to a rapid increase in the number of lighting connections throughout the town, and also to the assessment of new buildings. The increase in Howrah was due to revision of assessment. In Cossipore-Chitpur the increase was ascribed to the rate having been imposed during the year throughout the entire area of the municipality, with the exception of a small portion of Ward No. III.

224. The revenue under this showed an improvement of Rs. 55,101. Of this, Rs. 39,188 were contributed by the Burdwan and Rs. 12,675 by the Presidency Division. Howrah showed a marked increase of Rs. 36,815. In Murshidabad the latrine tax was introduced for the first time, and yielded an income of Rs. 5,265. Conservancy, including scavenging and latrine-rate.

225. The income under this head showed an increase of Rs. 1,41,722. The grants from Government amounted to Rs. 3,55,970 and from Local Funds to Rs. 1,29,077; while Rs. 1,24,144 were contributed by private persons. Grants from Provincial and Local Funds and contributions from private individuals.

226. *The receipts were Rs. 59,823 and Rs. 3,78,072, against Rs. 57,585 and Rs. 3,78,653, respectively, in the previous year. The slight fluctuations call for no comment.* Tax on professions and trades and the tax on persons according to their circumstances and property.

EXPENDITURE.

227. The percentage of expenditure under this head on total ordinary expenditure has fallen from 9·4 in 1906-1907 to 8·9 in the past year. This decrease is chiefly due to the remission by Government of the audit and banking fees hitherto charged to municipalities. Expenditure. Office and collection establishment.

228. As usual, the bulk of this expenditure was incurred by the Municipalities of Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 12,302), Howrah (Rs. 9,909), Garden Reach (Rs. 2,019), and Maniktala (Rs. 1,211), all of which contributed towards the maintenance of the Calcutta Fire Brigade establishment. In Darjeeling Rs. 1,747 were spent on the local fire brigade. Prevention of fire.

229. The total expenditure under this head rose by Rs. 8,073. The largest increases occurred in Howrah (Rs. 14,305) and Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 12,240). In Darjeeling the charges fell from Rs. 45,107 to Rs. 20,355, or by more than half. Lighting.

230. Under this head the expenditure on capital outlay fell from Rs. 1,52,046 to Rs. 1,13,054, while that on Establishment, Repairs, etc., rose from Rs. 1,93,491 to Rs. 2,26,555. The increase in the maintenance charges occurred chiefly in Howrah, Berhampore, Burdwan and Cossipore-Chitpur. In Howrah and Burdwan it is attributed to the high rates of coal and to charges on account of grain compensation allowance paid to the employés. There was a marked increase in capital expenditure at Bhagalpur (Rs. 62,188), due to the partial execution of a comprehensive scheme for the improvement of the water-works installation. The detailed plans and estimates for the Monghyr water-works scheme were completed; and the scheme has, after considerable delay, been accepted by the Municipal Commissioners. Detailed estimates and plans for the proposed water-works at Gaya are now under preparation by the Sanitary Engineer. At Khulna the improved water-works scheme was completed. In Howrah there were numerous complaints regarding the short supply during the hot weather, and the questions of the efficiency of the pumping plant and the improvement of the main are engaging the attention of the municipality. A scheme for the supply of filtered water to the Serampore Municipality is also under consideration. The Commissioners of the Hooghly-Chinsura Municipality have had a sketch project prepared for the installation of water-works in that town, for which considerable subscriptions have been locally raised. The Lieutenant-Governor has also consented to make a grant from Provincial revenues towards the scheme. A detailed scheme for increasing the water-supply at Kurseong has been completed; and the question of financing it is said to be under the consideration of the Municipal Commissioners. Water-supply.

Report by the Sanitary Board on Water-supply.

231. The Sanitary Board reported that the several municipal water-works installations in the Province were, on the whole, satisfactorily managed during the year. In this respect the Howrah works again stand easily first. Though the cost of supply per thousand gallons rose slightly to 1·4 annas, it was still by far the lowest in the Province. In Arrah there was an appreciable reduction in the cost of working from 5·1 to 4·7 annas. The management of the Berhampore works was reported to have been fairly satisfactory. The Municipalities of Cossipore-Chitpur and Maniktala received filtered water at the rate of 7·3 and 3·2 gallons per head per day, respectively, from the Calcutta Corporation. The supply, however, from the same source to the Tollygunge, South Suburban and Garden Reach Municipalities was still much in defect.

Drainage.

232. In Howrah the southern foreshore scheme has been nearly completed; and Government has accorded sanction to the execution of the work on blocks XIV and XVI of the northern foreshore scheme. Detailed plans and estimates have been submitted for the drainage of the Burdwan town; but the question of financing the scheme has not yet been settled by the Municipal Commissioners. A scheme, estimated to cost Rs. 77,433, has been prepared for the Katwa Municipality. The Monghyr scheme has now been completed, and is before the Sanitary Engineer. Two Surveyors have been employed to prepare the Bhagalpur drainage scheme, and the Chairman hopes that it may be possible to start work in the year 1909-1910. The Titaghar scheme did not make satisfactory progress during the year, owing to the stoppage of work by the contractors. The Cossipore-Chitpur and Maniktala schemes are still under revision. Six schemes, viz. (1) Garulia, (2) Baruipur, (3) Barasat, (4) Basirhat, (5) Budge-Budge, and (6) the northern section of the Baranagar scheme, have been sanctioned by Government. The execution of the southern section of the Baranagar scheme has been postponed in consequence of the strong objections raised by certain residents of the locality to the proposed outfall into the Hooghly. Work was commenced on the Puri scheme during the year.

Conservancy, including road-cleaning, road-watering and latrines.

233. Among individual municipalities, the largest increases occurred in Howrah (Rs. 26,088) and Cossipore-Chitpur (Rs. 17,603). The Divisional Commissioners have been asked not to content themselves with a bare statement of the figures of expenditure under this head, but to note whether the actual work of conservancy has been satisfactorily and efficiently performed by the municipalities in their Divisions, and to bring to notice any particular case of neglect in this respect.

Hospitals and dispensaries.

234. Deducting the contributions from Government and other sources, the interest on investments for medical purposes and the income from "Fees and revenues from medical institutions," the total net expenditure on hospitals from municipal revenues proper rose from Rs. 1,64,825 in 1906-1907 to Rs. 2,10,993 in 1907-1908. The Divisional reports show that increased attention was generally paid to the important subject of medical aid.

Plague charges.

235. There was a slight decrease under this head, which occurred in the Bhagalpur Division. The greater part of the expenditure was, as hitherto, incurred in the Patna Division (Rs. 60,149). The charges did not wholly fall upon municipal funds, liberal grants having, as usual, been made from Provincial revenues.

Vaccination.

256. The total number of children available for vaccination during the year was 57,520, of whom 83·4 per cent. were successfully vaccinated, as compared with a percentage of 87·3 in the preceding year. The expenditure under this head shows a slight increase.

Public works.

237. More attention was given to the maintenance of roads during the year, especially in the Burdwan Division, where the increase in the charges on this account aggregated Rs. 1,33,394. In Howrah Rs. 1,00,000 were paid towards the cost of taking up lands required for widening roads for a service of electric tramways. The Divisional Commissioners have been requested to note whether the municipal roads have actually been maintained in an efficient condition, and not to content themselves with a mere statement of the sums spent under this head.

Public Instruction.

238. The outlay under this head shows a small increase of Rs. 1,971; but the provincial percentage of expenditure on ordinary income was still below the prescribed figure (3·2). The local officers have been asked to see

that no municipality shirks its duty towards primary instruction. Where insufficient contributions have been made without good reason, the Municipal Commissioners should be called upon to make increased provision.

Loans.

239. Thirty-six municipalities were in debt at the close of the year, and their total net indebtedness, after deducting the balance of the sinking fund investments, amounted to Rs. 38,96,848. The loan liabilities of Howrah were Rs. 20,90,363, of Darjeeling Rs. 5,40,390, of Bhagalpur Rs. 3,09,628 and of Patna Rs. 2,54,452. Thirteen municipalities received loans during the year. Howrah took Rs. 1,10,000 for the construction of the south foreshore drainage; Bhagalpur Rs. 15,500 for the improvement of its water-works; Cossipore-Chitpur Rs. 61,000 for the enlarging of the trenching ground and the extension of gas lighting; and Puri Rs. 50,000 towards the cost of the local drainage works.

Financial condition.

240. On the 31st March 1908 the total outstanding liabilities of the municipalities on account of unpaid bills and unfinished works amounted to Rs. 2,38,505, against Rs. 1,84,020 in 1906-1907, which represents 29·6 per cent. of their total current demand. In 13 municipalities, against 14 in the preceding year, the liabilities exceeded the closing balances, the worst case being that of Berhampore, as its liabilities were Rs. 18,516, against a closing balance of Rs. 4,325. The unsatisfactory financial condition of this municipality has compelled the Lieutenant-Governor to issue a clear warning to the Commissioners.

Audit of accounts and embezzlements.

241. Cases of embezzlement of municipal money were brought to light during the year in the Santipur, Asansol, Baidyabati, Patna and Muzaffarpur Municipalities. They were all petty cases; but they serve to show the value of the Government audit.

Working of the Porters and Dandiwallas Act.

242. The Act continued to be enforced in the towns of Darjeeling and Kurseong. While there were a few prosecutions, no licenses were cancelled.

General.

243. The Divisional Commissioners specially mentioned many Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen and a few Municipal Commissioners who had distinguished themselves by good work during the year. To these gentlemen the Lieutenant-Governor expressed his thanks in the annual Resolution. The Commissioner of Burdwan, on the other hand, reported that the administration of the Uttarpara Municipality had been extremely unsatisfactory owing to the existence of party factions and to an attempt having been made by one of the Commissioners to obtain control of municipal affairs without incurring any responsibility. At Baidyabati and Bhadreswar, also, party feeling appears to have interfered to a greater or less extent with municipal administration. The Magistrate of Burdwan commented unfavourably upon the administration of the Burdwan Municipality in regard to the licensing of meat shops. The action of the Municipal Commissioners in this matter had been the subject of criticism for some time past; and the question of superseding them was before Government.

Sir Andrew Fraser was glad to observe from the reports received from the Divisional Commissioners that with a very few exceptions good work was done and public spirit shown by the Municipal Committees in the Province.

THE CALCUTTA MUNICIPALITY.

[Report on the Municipal Administration of Calcutta for 1907-1908: Statistics of British India, Part VII—Local Funds.]

General.

244. The past year has been one of steady progress in many directions. The plans and estimates of the elevated reservoir in connection with the extension of the water-supply which is estimated to cost Rs. 69 lakhs have been sanctioned by Government after they had been subjected to expert opinion in England and in India. The orders of the Secretary of State on the scheme for the improvement of Calcutta were received since the close of the year and a draft Bill giving effect to the scheme has been submitted to the Government of India. The project for the drainage of the Fringe Area of Calcutta, the cost of which has been estimated at 30 lakhs, has also been

sanctioned by Government and a contribution made towards the cost from Provincial Revenues. The Accounts Department has been strengthened, the high standard of efficiency of the Assessment, Survey, Collection and License Departments has been well maintained, and many other improvements effected during the year.

Meetings. 245. The Corporation held 63 meetings, or 7 more than in the previous year. They appointed 19 Special Committees who held 110 meetings and continued to do useful work. The four District Committees held on an average seventeen meetings each.

The General Committee held weekly meetings, the average attendance being 10, the same as last year. It also appointed 14 Sub-Committees, who held 107 meetings.

The question which was raised as to the legality of the continued existence of standing Committees was set at rest by the opinion of the Honorable the Advocate-General who advised that these Committees could be legally constituted.

Election rules. 246. Important changes were introduced in the rules for the conduct of Municipal elections in Calcutta. According to the rules incorporated in the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1899, a voter could only secure a place on the election roll by making a special application to the Chairman for this purpose. Under the revised rules it will be the duty of the Chairman to prepare the list of voters from the Assessment registers, as was done under the Act of 1888, and it is anticipated that a much larger number of voters will take part in future general elections than has been the case in recent years.

Revenue funds. 247. The revenue receipts of the year amounted to Rs. 74,27,668 and the expenditure to Rs. 76,66,641, of which Rs. 61,162 represent non-recurring receipts and Rs. 3,41,804 non-recurring expenditure. The principal item under the latter head was grain compensation allowance which amounted to Rs. 2,07,867 during the year. The actuals agree closely with the budget. The deficit in the accounts of the year is entirely due to the abnormal non-recurring expenditure, since a balancing of the recurring receipts and expenditure shows a surplus of Rs. 41,669.

Loan funds. 248. The year opened with a balance of Rs. 9,05,263, the receipts amounted to Rs. 28,10,314 and the expenditure was Rs. 19,91,595. The receipts comprised of Rs. 26,18,600 borrowed from the public and Rs. 1,10,762 obtained from the sale of surplus lands. The loan was floated in four instalments at an average rate of Rs. 97-12. There was a large difference between the budget estimate and the actuals, as against a provision of Rs. 35,66,927, only Rs. 19,91,595 were actually expended during the year.

This defect in the method of budgeting is receiving the attention of the Municipal authorities. The principal items of expenditure were extension and improvement of the filtered water-supply, construction of sewers and pumping stations, markets, slaughter-houses and *dhobi khanas* and the construction and equipment of the Central and District office buildings. The total loan liability of the Corporation at the end of the year 1907-1908 was Rs. 4,17,02,909 and their legal borrowing capacity stood at Rs. 1,68,10,000.

Valuation and assessment. 249. The gross assessed valuation of the city rose by Rs. 14,14,470, which represents an adition of Rs. 2,41,917 to the gross demand of the consolidated rate, and it now stands at Rs. 3,05,10,503, against Rs. 2,08,54,467 in 1898 and Rs. 1,43,75,673 in 1888. Wards 1, 6, 24 and 25 only were revalued during the year.

Surveys. 250. The survey of the added area was completed by the end of the previous year and the establishment was disbanded in April 1907. A survey, however, although accurate, soon loses its value unless it is corrected from time to time as changes occur. Proposals for the due maintenance of the new maps of the added area, as well as of the old maps of the town proper are now under consideration.

Collections. 251. The percentage of collections was slightly lower than in the previous year, 96 33 per cent. of the gross current demand having been collected, as compared with 96·69 in 1906-1907. This is ascribed mainly to a decision of the Civil Court that buildings are to be treated as vacant so long as they are under construction. Recourse was seldom had to coercive methods, distraints having taken place in only fourteen cases, and sales in only seven.

252. The income from licenses which five years ago did not exceed Rs. 7,19,207 has, owing partly to the development of business in the city and partly to improved methods of assessment and recovery of the taxes, risen to Rs. 9,14,265, representing an advance of Rs. 18,256 on last year's receipts. **Licenses.**

253. More than a mile of new roads was opened out, 1½ miles of underground sewers were laid, 2 miles of roads were kerbed and channelled and no less than 65 bighas of *busti* land were cleared of huts, with a view, in most cases, to the erection of masonry buildings. **Bustees.**

254. The Chief Engineer's scheme for the improvement of the filtered water-supply by the construction of an elevated reservoir at Tallah so as to contain 9 million gallons of water, a large trunk main from Tallah to Wellington Square and additional pumping stations at Pulta and Tallah, the total cost of which amounts to Rs. 69,17,874 received the sanction of Government in March 1908 and tenders have been called for. Some anxiety has been caused by the erosion of the river bank at Pulta in the neighbourhood of the head works of the water-works and the Corporation decided to dredge away a spur which is affecting the current, and also to revet a portion of the bank. The quantity of water supplied outside the city has been augmented by nearly 30 per cent., the receipts from this source being Rs. 14,000 better than last year. **Water-supply. Filtered water.**

255. Owing to the engines at Mullik's Ghat having been thoroughly renovated, the difficulties which had been for some time experienced in the supply of unfiltered water for purposes of road watering and flushing have disappeared. **Unfiltered water.**

256. In order to utilise to the best advantage the sewers in the tract east and south of Calcutta which is served by the Suburban drainage scheme, 150 gully pits to pass the surface drainage into the sewers were constructed in this area. Masonry drains aggregating 29,292 feet in length have been built and 135 house-connections have been made. West of Tolly's Nullah, except in a portion of Kidderpore, the system still remains in abeyance pending the construction of a syphon across the Nullah. A definite offer has at last been received from a firm of Engineers in Calcutta for the construction of this syphon, which has been accepted by the Corporation with the approval of Government. The work is important, as without it little advantage can be gained from the costly system of sewers already executed to the west of Tolly's Nullah. **Suburban drainage.**

257. The sewerage of the narrow lowlying belt which separates the Circular Road from the Canal and is known as the Fringe Area is next in importance to the Suburban Drainage, as the sewers and branches will, it is estimated, extend to 17 miles and the expenditure amount to nearly 30 lakhs. The scheme has been approved by the Commissioners and sanctioned by Government. **Drainage of the Fringe Area.**

258. The programme of works of improvement carried out during 1907-1908 was somewhat less extensive than in the previous year, the improvements consisting chiefly of kerbing and channelling roads, construction of new roads, improvement of water mains and sewers. The long pending question of the removal of the refuse platform from the neighbourhood of the Campbell Hospital has been settled, and the Hospital premises will be extended southwards as far as the Municipal Railway main line. **Improvement works.**

About Rs. 4,40,000 were expended on road repairs. With regard to the most suitable material for road-making in Calcutta an experiment has been made during the year with asphalte macadam, which has the advantage over wood in that it requires no special foundation and is therefore less costly. This will have a fair trial before recourse is had to wood, which is both expensive and difficult to lay and repair.

A new tramway line has been opened along the Diamond Harbour road to Behala, with a connecting link through Alipore to the Russa Road.

259. A continuous service is maintained in the central wards of the town, while a double service is worked throughout the city. This reform has been effected at a heavy cost; and it would be possible to keep the streets and lanes very much cleaner if the people would shake off the habit, which certain classes have acquired, of treating the streets as a dumping ground. **Conservancy.**

260. Some improvement was made in the lighting by the erection of powerful gas lamps at street corners and by the substitution of gas for **Lighting.**

oil lamps. The existing contract with the Oriental Gas Company, however, provides for lamps of only 24-candle power and this is much below the standard of modern requirements. The contract expires in 1911, but tenders for the proper lighting of the city were invited last year in order to allow the successful tenderer ample time to instal the necessary plant before the expiry of the contract. The Corporation have under consideration the Gas Company's tender, and the new arrangements, which provide for lamps of 60-candle-power without involving any increase in the cost, will probably come into effect at once.

Health and Plague Departments.

261. The recorded birth-rate was 19·1 per mille, against 17·7 in the previous year, on the 1901 Census figures. The statistics of births have long been recognised to be defective, but it is hoped that the enquiries made by peripatetic registrars under the new system will improve the registration. The death-rate was 37·6, against 35·7 in 1906; but the Health Officer of Calcutta shows that, calculated on the present population of the city, the proportion would be not more than 33 per mille. The increase was due to a larger mortality from cholera and plague. The former was responsible for 3,803 deaths, being the highest during the last ten years. Plague accounted for 3,591, Small-pox for 1,286, Dysentery and Diarrhœa for 2,751, and respiratory diseases for 5,007 deaths. The death-rate among infants in Calcutta (293 per mille) was the highest in the Province. The proportion of deaths from malaria is very small in Calcutta compared with the rest of Bengal.

The comparative statistics of mortality in various parts of the city indicate that the suburbs are by far the unhealthiest region, for they show a death-rate of 48·9 per mille, as compared with 41·5 in the Fringe Area, and 34·7 in the town proper. Proposals for abolishing the Special Plague Department and entrusting its work to the ordinary Health Department of the city are still under consideration.

Markets.

262. The receipts from the Sir Stuart Hogg market rose from Rs. 2,65,107 to Rs. 2,88,507 owing mainly to more careful collection. A large extension of this market is under construction at a cost of Rs. 9½ lakhs.

Municipal Magistrate's Court.

263. The number of cases instituted before the Muncipal Magistrate rose from 11,133 to 12,251. The total amount of fines however fell from Rs. 55,670 to Rs. 45,581. The percentage of convictions fell from 64 to 60, and that of persons discharged upon compliance with the orders issued to them rose from 32 to 36. This indicates greater care in the prosecution of cases and an increased tendency to leniency in the case of defendants who were willing to carry out Municipal requisitions. There were 19 appeals and the Magistrate's order was reversed in three cases only.

Various contributions.

264. The expenditure on Hospitals and Dispensaries and Almshouse from Municipal funds was Rs. 63,455, of which the Campbell Hospital received Rs. 35,000, the Sambhunath Pandit Hospital Rs. 5,000, the Dufferin Hospital Rs. 2,200, and the Chetla Dispensary Rs. 1,003.

The total expenditure on primary and technical education and the provision of free libraries was Rs. 43,416, of which Rs. 22,872 were given in capitation grants to primary and technical schools; Rs. 17,744 were granted by way of exemption from Municipal rates to certain institutions. Grants of Rs. 1,200 and Rs. 1,600 were made, respectively, to the Deaf and Dumb School and to free libraries.

Hackney carriage and other Departments.

265. There was a rise in the number of first class carriages, but decrease in the second and third class carriages owing partly to the stricter examination, which now precedes registration and partly to the competition of the tramway service. Rubber tyres have been provided on all first class carriages, while all the second class phaetons and many of the closed carriages have also adopted this improvement.

The Puri Lodging-house Act (1907-1908).

Extent of application.

266. During the year 1907-1908 the operation of the Lodging-house Act was withdrawn from the towns of Midnapore and Garhbeta, as almost all pilgrims now travel by the railway and do not stop in these two places. The by-laws in force in the districts of the Orissa Division were revised with effect from the 1st of November 1907. Since the close of the year an Act has been

passed to amend the Lodging-house Act, in order to provide further funds for the sanitation of towns frequented by pilgrims, to prevent overcrowding in lodging-houses and to remove certain minor defects which the practical working of the Act had disclosed.

Number of licensed Lodging-houses.

267. The number of licensed lodging-houses fell from 1,759 in 1906-1907 to 1,746 in 1907-1908, although the number of persons for whom accommodation was provided rose from 66,322 to 66,818. In Nadia and Naihati, however, there was an increase of 27 and 35, respectively, in the number of houses licensed. In both these towns there was an increase in the number of pilgrims, due to the *Ardhoday Yog* festival, which took place on the 2nd February 1908. In the town of Puri, 89 licenses were suspended during the year for disobedience of orders issued in respect of the sanitary condition of the lodging-houses; but in most cases the order was subsequently withdrawn on the lodging-house-keepers complying with the requisitions of the Health Officer. The attendance during the *Rath Jatra* was smaller than in the previous year, only 51,743 pilgrims having visited the town, as compared with 70,000 in 1906-1907.

Offences under the Act.

268. Four hundred and eight cases were disposed of under the Act during the year, against 302 in the previous year. The number of persons convicted was 383, against 267 in 1906-1907. The amount of fines realized rose from Rs. 4,461 to Rs. 5,933-12.

Financial.

269. The total income of the Lodging-house Funds during the year (excluding the opening balance of Rs. 67,955-2-5) was Rs. 83,008-10, as compared with Rs. 83,524-0-9 in 1906-07. The income of the Deoghur Lodging-house Fund fell from Rs. 10,264 to Rs. 7,297. There was an increase in the receipts at Nadia and Naihati. In the former case the income amounted to Rs. 3,127-4 (including a special Government grant of Rs. 600 for sanitary arrangements in connexion with the *Yog* festival), against Rs. 2,097-8-9 in the previous year; and in the latter it was Rs. 2,066-8 (including a Government grant of Rs. 500 for the above purpose), against Rs. 500-8. The increase is principally due to the larger attendance of pilgrims on the occasion of the *Yog* festival. The *chattis* on the Jagannath road in Cuttack and Balasore show a marked increase in receipts due to the settlement of roadside lands by auction at higher rates.

The total expenditure of the Lodging-house Funds rose from Rs. 44,218 in 1906-1907 to Rs. 90,768 in 1907-1908. The increase was almost entirely due to the large contribution of Rs. 37,500 given by the Gaya Lodging-house Committee towards the local water-works scheme. There were slight increases in expenditure at Nadia and Naihati, due to the special sanitary arrangements that had to be made for the influx of pilgrims on the occasion of the *Ardhoday Yog* festival. Taking into account the invested balance, about half-a-lakh of rupees will be available from the Puri fund to be given in contributions towards the cost of the drainage and water-works schemes of that town, which have received the approval of Government.

Health and general.

270. The health of the pilgrims was, on the whole, fair. Outbreaks of cholera occurred at Gaya and Puri, but these were not so serious as in the preceding year. In the former town the number of deaths reported from this cause was 93 against 228, and in the latter 256 against 400 in 1906-1907. The total mortality among the pilgrims during the year was 636, as compared with 1,208 in the preceding year. Plague was prevalent in Gaya, but not a single pilgrim died of the disease. It also appeared in Deoghur, but only one death is attributed to this cause. In Puri there were 84 deaths from dysentery and 63 from fever. The sanitary arrangements of the lodging-houses were generally satisfactory, and the water-supply was good and sufficient throughout the year.

District Boards.

[The Reports from Commissioners of Divisions on the working of District Boards in Bengal during the year 1907-1908: Statistics of British India, Part VIII—Local Funds.]

Number of District and Local Boards.

271. There was no change in the number of District and Local Boards during the year. One new Union Committee was established with effect from the 1st September 1907 at Ulubaria, in the subdivision of that name in the Howrah district.

Constitution of District Boards.

272. The total number of members of District Boards remained unchanged. The total number of meetings held 428) was about the same as in 1906-1907. Only 20 were adjourned or proved abortive for want of a quorum. The District Boards of Manbhum and Birbhum held the largest number of meetings, viz., 21 and 20 respectively, Patna, Shahabad and Saran following with 18 meetings each; and of the rest only Puri, Sambalpur and Palamau failed to meet at least once a month. The average attendance at meetings (12·8) shows a slight improvement over that of the previous year (11·5). Taking the total number of members in each Division into consideration, the Patna Division shows the best attendance (62 per cent.), and Chota Nagpur the smallest (43 per cent.).

Constitution of Local Boards.

273. No change occurred in the number of members. Of 846 meetings convened, 119 were adjourned or proved abortive for want of a quorum. Thirty-five Local Boards failed to meet once a month. The average attendance of members at meetings was 5·2 as compared with 5·9 in 1906-1907 and 4·9 in 1905-1906.

Elections.

274. General elections were held in the districts of Birbhum, Bankura, Hooghly, Khulna and the 24-Parganas. Very little interest was taken by the people in these elections. In several cases the elections failed, and the vacancies had to be filled by nomination by Government.

Union Committees.

275. There were Union Committees only in the Burdwan, Presidency and Orissa Divisions, as in previous years. The aggregate income of the 50 Union Committees, which were in existence during the year, excluding the opening balance, declined from Rs. 18,582 to Rs. 16,913, and the total expenditure from Rs. 19,323 to Rs. 16,052. Twenty-three Union Committees expended the whole or nearly the whole of the allotment placed at their disposal. Many of the Union Committees in Burdwan and Presidency Divisions did useful work during the year. The Memari Union in Burdwan and all those in the Orissa Division again incurred no expenditure and practically did nothing during the year. The question of infusing life into these Committees and extending their sphere of usefulness will shortly be taken up in connection with the Bengal Local Self-Government (Amendment) Act, 1908, which contemplates the delegation of extended powers to these bodies in the matter of village sanitation and water-supply.

Financial results.

276. The gross opening credit balance of the year was Rs. 28,22,764 and the total receipts of the District Boards from all sources amounted to Rs. 79,38,862. The total amount available for expenditure was thus Rs. 1,07,61,626, of which Rs. 79,29,121 were disbursed during the year, leaving a credit balance of Rs. 28,32,505 on the 31st March.

The table below compares the income and expenditure of the District Boards under the main heads of account in the past two years :—

Income.

	1906-07. Rs.	1907-08. Rs.
Provincial Rates	32,43,952	34,06,194
Interest	34,692	33,925
Police (pounds)	3,32,923	3,43,487
Education	58,994	47,709
Medical	50,080	92,123
Scientific and other Minor Departments ...	20,397	20,381
Miscellaneous	1,32,232	1,48,538
Irrigation, Minor Works and Navigation ...	5,790	5,609
Civil Works (including ferries)	17,38,000	15,55,948
Contribution	6,97,394	6,86,132
Loans	1,10,000	7,96,698
Deposits and Advances	7,84,426	8,02,118
Total ...	72,08,880	79,38,862

Expenditure.

	1906-07.	1907-08.
	Rs.	Rs.
Administration	2,22,906	2,13,336
Police (pounds)	25,253	30,673
Education	11,44,153	11,70,390
Medical	3,72,728	4,06,096
Scientific and other Minor Departments ...	56,422	62,484
Superannuation Allowance and Pension ...	31,567	42,719
Stationery and Printing	33,659	44,009
Miscellaneous	27,561	29,943
Famine Relief	2,96,772	86,626
Minor Works and Navigation	−1,280	3,75,621
Civil Works	43,77,497	45,69,276
Contribution	42,027	19,578
Interest on Debt	4,486	5,189
Debt	9,09,935	8,73,181
Total ...	75,43,686	79,29,121

INCOME.

277. There was a large increase of revenue under this head, amounting to Rs. 1,62,242, which was shared more or less by all the Divisions except Bhagalpur, where the income declined by Rs. 8,093. The largest increase of Rs. 80,199 and Rs. 64,298 are returned by the Patna and Chota Nagpur Divisions, respectively. In the former Division the recovery of arrear demands from some big zamindars accounts for increases of Rs. 61,602 in Darbhanga and of Rs. 24,008 in Gaya. In the Chota Nagpur Division the increase was shared by all the District Boards, and was due to the revision of assessments on mines in Hazaribagh and Manbhum, to better collection in the Chota Nagpur Estate in Ranchi, and to revaluation in the District of Palamau. **Provincial Rates.**

278. The total number of pounds maintained by the District Boards was 2,773, and the revenue derived from them (Rs. 3,43,487) shows an improvement of Rs. 10,564. The increase was shared by the Burdwan, Patna and Chota Nagpur Divisions, while there was a decline in the remaining Divisions. The largest increase occurred in the Champaran district (Rs. 4,339). There were comparatively large increases also in Midnapore (Rs. 1,783), Darbhanga (Rs. 2,429), Sambalpur (Rs. 2,531), Ranchi (Rs. 1,803) and Palamau (Rs. 2,381). The improved revenue is ascribed generally to better settlements and better collection of rents, and to the increase in the number of pounds and in the amount of sale-proceeds of unclaimed cattle. On the other hand, there were considerable decreases in the districts of Cuttack (Rs. 2,528) and Bhagalpur (Rs. 1,619). In these two districts the pounds were settled in the previous year, when large security deposits were received and credited to the Boards. More interest is being taken by the Boards generally in the administration of the pounds. **Police (Pounds).**

279. The receipts under this head (Rs. 15,55,948) showed an aggregate decline of Rs. 1,82,052, which occurred almost entirely in the Patna Division. The annual grant of 9 lakhs made by Government to augment the resources of District Boards, with a view principally to improve roads and communications, etc., is included mostly under this head. **Civil Works.**

The receipts from *Ferries* showed a marked increase of Rs. 40,496. The improvement was most noticeable in Patna (Rs. 5,829), Muzaffarpur (Rs. 17,887), and Darbhanga (Rs. 34,083). Better settlement, prompt realization of the demand and the recovery of security deposits on fresh leases accounted generally for the increase in these three districts, as elsewhere also. The income fell largely in Midnapore (Rs. 3,100), Khulna (Rs. 3,008), Cuttack (Rs. 3,977) and Shahabad (Rs. 3,068).

280. The 24-Parganas District Board obtained a loan of Rs. 6,39,698 for the execution of the Magra Hât Drainage Scheme referred to in last year's Report. The Muzaffarpur District Board took a loan of Rs. 1,25,000 for the **Loans.**

repair of damages to roads and bridges caused by the floods in the previous year, and the Manbhum Board of Rs. 32,000 for the improvement of roads.

The income under *Interest* and under *Scientific and other Minor Departments* was practically the same as in the preceding year. Under *Education* there was a decrease of Rs. 11,285, which is more than accounted for by the falling off in contributions received during the year. The receipts under *Medical* rose by Rs. 42,043, chiefly in consequence of grants made by Government.

EXPENDITURE.

Administration.

281. There was a decrease of Rs. 9,570 in the aggregate expenditure under this head, owing to the abolition, with effect from the 1st April 1907, of the fees for audit and banking hitherto charged by Government. Office establishment and contingencies showed increases of Rs. 2,543 and Rs. 6,445, respectively, due to normal expansion of work.

Education.

282. The total expenditure (Rs. 11,70,390) on this important branch of the Board's administration showed an increase of Rs. 26,237, which occurred mainly under "Primary schools maintained and managed by the Board." The largest increase (Rs. 43,135) occurred in the Patna Division. During the year, one high school, 132 middle schools, 95 upper primary schools and 7 industrial schools, with 497, 8,731, 7,992 and 160 pupils, respectively, on their rolls, were maintained by the District Boards. In the upper and lower primary schools aided by the Boards, 657,531 boys and 77,902 girls received instruction, as compared with 646,040 boys and 72,524 girls in 1906-1907.

Special Schools.

283. The technical schools maintained or aided by the District Boards of Burdwan, Khulna, Midnapore, Bhagalpur, Ranchi, Hazaribagh and Manbhum were continued during the year. Small technical schools were also maintained by the District Boards of Shahabad, Saran and Darbhanga.

Besides the maintenance of technical schools, most of the Boards gave scholarships to pupils attending either the Sibpur or Bihar Engineering Colleges, the Veterinary College at Belgachhia, the Deaf and Dumb School at Calcutta, the Government School of Art, Calcutta, or the Government Medical Schools in Calcutta and Patna. One scholarship of Rs. 25 a month tenable at the Medical College, Calcutta, was also awarded by the Shahabad District Board. Scholarships were also given to some pupil-nurses at the Temple Medical School and the female Hospital at Chinsura.

Industrial development.

284. Attempts continued to be made by several District Boards to popularize the fly-shuttle loom, with but limited success. In the Chota Nagpur Division the number of industrial schools and the number of pupils in them fell from 21 and 328 to 16 and 263, respectively. The decrease occurred in the district of Hazaribagh, and was due to the withdrawal of aid from five industrial schools owing to their unsatisfactory working. In the district of Manbhum two industrial schools at Tanasai and Pandra received aid from the District Board. The Raghunathpur Weaving School, which received a monthly grant of Rs. 10 from the District Board, was abolished during the year, as the working of the school was found to be unsatisfactory and the attendance of the boys nominal. The fly-shuttle loom, which had been supplied to this school by the Board, was sent to the Rev. Dr. Campbell of Pakhuria, who has established a similar institution, where there are now 11 looms. The teacher and instructor is a weaver belonging to the district, and is one of the men who were sent to Serampore at the expense of the District Board some years ago to be taught the use of the fly-shuttle.

The District Board of Hooghly contributed Rs. 1,500 towards the second Industrial and Agricultural Exhibition held at Chinsura during the year. This exhibition was highly appreciated by the people, and was considered to be a great success in diffusing among the public a knowledge of the products of different parts of the district and in encouraging local industries and agriculture. The Bankura District Board contributed Rs. 300 to a local Agricultural Association for the collection and preservation of specimens of local arts and industries. The Birbhum Board gave a grant of Rs. 250 towards the Cattle and Agricultural Show held at Suri. An Agricultural Exhibition was held at Kushtia in the Nadia district, and a Cattle Show and an Agricultural

Exhibition were held at Khulna, to the expenses of which the District Boards concerned contributed. Both these exhibitions aroused public interest. The District Board of Manbhum incurred an expenditure of Rs. 3,025 on the Agricultural Show, which is annually held at Purulia in that district. The attention of District Boards has been specially drawn to the propriety of encouraging local, industrial and agricultural shows, by making suitable grants-in-aid as their funds may permit.

Medical.

285. The District Boards continued to show keen interest in the promotion of medical aid in their districts. The expenditure increased under this head by Rs. 33,368. The total number of dispensaries wholly maintained by the Boards rose from 129 to 139, and the number aided by them from 137 to 147. Four new dispensaries were opened by the District Board of Khulna, and one each by those of Hooghly, the 24-Parganas, Shahabad, Darbhanga, Cuttack, Balasore and Ranchi. The District Board of Jessore, on the other hand, closed one of the eight dispensaries maintained in the previous year. No dispensaries were maintained by the District Boards of Murshidahad, Sambalpur and Hazaribagh. These Boards, however, contributed to the dispensaries maintained from other sources in their districts. For the maintenance of the new dispensary opened by the Hooghly District Board, Srimati Susila Sundari Dasi, widow of the late Babu Bama Charan Bhar of Haripal, made over to the Board Government securities to the value of Rs. 25,000, and also presented a two-storied masonry building for the purpose. The largest number of dispensaries (15) was maintained by the Khulna Board, Patna following with eleven. This latter Board also continued to subsidize all the Municipal dispensaries in the district. Burdwan, Darbhanga and Monghyr maintained 10 dispensaries each. The Shahabad District Board took over the maintenance of the Arrah dispensary. The scheme of deputing Medical officers in charge of dispensaries to local markets continued to be tried in the Burdwan, Presidency and Chota Nagpur Divisions. The floating dispensary established by the 24-Parganas District Board for the Sundarbans is still in an experimental stage. The floating dispensary opened, through private liberality, during the year on the Taldanga Canal, in the Cuttack district, is said to have been much appreciated by the public. The experiment of an itinerary dispensary for the Bhadrak Khas Mahal in the Balasore district is reported to have proved a success. In several cases arrangements were also made for the supply of gratuitous medical relief in localities affected with malarial fever or other diseases in an epidemic form. The total charges incurred by District Boards on measures for the prevention of plague amounted to Rs. 57,765, against Rs. 46,900 in the previous year. Almost the whole of the expenditure was, as usual, incurred in the Patna Division (Rs. 52,362).

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC

Sanitation.

286. The figures under this head show an increase of Rs. 7,034 which was shared more or less by all the Divisions. As in previous years, the sanitary work done by District Boards was of a somewhat varied character, and included preventive measures against plague, cholera and other epidemic diseases, the disinfection of wells and tanks, and the making of sanitary arrangements at fairs, *mélas*, etc. The charges incurred by the several District Boards on this account were generally light; but they were considerable in Midnapore (Rs. 3,500), Patna (Rs. 6,007), Gaya (Rs. 6,268), Purnea (Rs. 2,606) and Cuttack (Rs. 3,681). The system of village sanitation, which has been carried out for some years past in Patna, was continued in that district, and was also followed in the districts of Midnapore, Birbhum, Hooghly, Gaya, Monghyr and Cuttack. Satisfactory work appears to have been done in the Patna, Gaya and Midnapore districts.

Veterinary Charges.

287. The expenditure on this account also shows an increase of Rs. 7,136, which was shared by all the Divisions, except the Presidency and Chota Nagpur, where there was a slight decline. The largest increases occurred in the Patna, Bhagalpur and Orissa Divisions. The District Board of Howrah alone, as in the previous year, returned no expenditure on this account although it paid a monthly contribution of Rs. 15 to the Howrah Veterinary Dispensary. The largest expenditure, viz, of Rs. 4,273 and Rs. 3,523, was incurred by the Muzaffarpur District Board and the Sambalpur District Council, respectively. The former maintained two veterinary dispensaries, one at the Sadar and the other at Sitamarhi, as well as an itinerant veterinary staff. In Sambalpur the increase of expenditure

was chiefly due to the employment of an itinerant Veterinary Assistant. A sum of Rs. 1,868 was spent on the construction of a building for the dispensary and quarters for the Assistant. In Purnea the expenditure rose from Rs. 675 to Rs. 2,033, owing to the construction of a shed for a shoeing forge attached to the veterinary dispensary and the purchase of the necessary equipment. The veterinary hospital building at Arrah was completed at a cost of Rs. 3,187, and was opened in October 1907. In Saran a veterinary dispensary building was in course of construction, and a Veterinary Assistant was appointed towards the close of the year. The Champaran District Board employed one itinerant Veterinary Assistant throughout the year. Babu Sourendra Mohan Sinha, a public-spirited zamindar of Bhagalpur, constructed a veterinary hospital and made it over to the District Board furnished and equipped since the close of the year. The total cost, including the cost of building, furniture, instruments, drugs, etc., is reported to have been Rs. 11,888. It is contemplated to attach a farrier's department to the hospital, and for this purpose the District Board hassent a *nalband* to Belgachhia for training on a monthly salary of Rs. 20. The local officers report favourably on the working of most of the dispensaries; and there has been a marked increase in the number of cases treated by the veterinary staff in many districts. There are distinct indications, in fact, that appreciation of the value of the Veterinary Department is steadily extending among the people, and that the local bodies are taking increased interest in the subject. The Lieutenant-Governor is glad to learn that in several districts steps have been taken to establish a farrier's shop in connexion with the local veterinary hospital. This is a measure of practical utility that might well be adopted more generally. The chief difficulty in the past has been to obtain a properly-trained farrier; but it should be a simple matter now to have local men thoroughly trained at the Belgachhia Institution. Sir Andrew Fraser has also noticed with satisfaction the desire shown by the Midnapore District Board to do something towards the improvement of the local breed of cattle. This Board has obtained eight stud bulls from Bihar through the Civil Veterinary Department, and intends to distribute these animals to suitable centres in the district that the people may be able to avail themselves of their services. Some useful work has already been done in this direction in the Birbhum district; and the Lieutenant-Governor has urged upon other District Boards the propriety of taking similar action in consultation with the Veterinary Department.

Famine Relief.

288. The expenditure on this account fell from Rs. 2,96,772 to Rs. 86,626. The bulk of the charges (Rs. 62,379) was incurred in the Patna Division, the Presidency and Bhagalpur Divisions following with an expenditure of Rs. 11,665 and Rs. 9,322, respectively. Rs. 41,569 were spent on gratuitous relief in Muzaffarpur. In Nadia relief works were opened on several roads under the contract system, by making advances to zamindars, members of the District and Local Boards and other gentlemen of the locality. Nearly Rs. 34,000 were advanced in this way. The District Board of Monghyr spent Rs. 3,443 during the year towards repairing the damage caused by floods; and this sufficed to provide employment for those able to work. In the Bhagalpur District acute distress continued to prevail in the Madhipura and Supaul Subdivisions till the middle of June, owing to the wholesale damage done to the crops by floods. The Board spent Rs. 3,824 in Madhipura and Rs. 2,055 in Supaul in repairing and constructing *bandhs*. In Cuttack a sum of Rs. 1,050 was spent for gratuitous relief in the affected areas of Jajpur and Kendrapara Subdivisions. With a view to provide work for the distressed people, road and tank works costing about Rs. 15,000 were also undertaken by diverting funds from the ordinary channels of expenditure. The Balasore District Board had to incur heavy expenditure in repairing the damage done by floods to roads and buildings. A sum of Rs. 17,454 was advanced to the Collector for gratuitous relief and test works. In Puri scarcity occurred in the neighbourhood of the Chilka Lake, as well as in the Marichpur tract, where test works were opened in December. Rupees 8,381 were paid from the District Fund up to the end of March 1908 on account of these works. In all these cases where the accounts had been duly completed, the usual refunds were made from Provincial revenues, the policy of Government being to recoup the Boards for the charges incurred, except in respect of works directly beneficial to the Boards themselves.

289. The expenditure incurred by the District Boards under this important head has steadily increased during the past five years from about 31 lakhs to 45½ lakhs of rupees. The figures for 1907-1908 show an increase of close on two lakhs over those of the preceding year. Great activity was shown by the Boards during the year, especially in the districts of the Patna and Bhagalpur Divisions, in the improvement of communications. The increase in charges under "Roads" alone amounted to Rs. 2,01,708 for the whole Province. The greatest activity in respect of original works of communication was shown in the Patna, Bhagalpur and Orissa Divisions, where the expenditure exceeded that of the previous year by Rs. 1,17,349, Rs. 1,25,656 and Rs. 46,816, respectively. The Boards taken all together maintained during the year 2,756 miles of metalled, 18,450 miles of unmetalled, 14,650 miles of village roads—an increase of 113 miles in all over the figures for 1906-1907. It is chiefly, however, in respect of the all-important matter of bridges that progress has been made during recent years; and the long lists of iron and masonry bridges completed or partially constructed, contained in the reports for the past year, show that rapid progress is being made in this direction. Large and important bridges were built in the districts of Patna, Gaya, Shahabad, Saran, Muzaffarpur, Champaran, Darbhanga, Monghyr and Bhagalpur; and important new roads were constructed in the Hooghly, 24-Parganas, Monghyr, Bhagalpur, Balasore and Ranchi districts. Civil Works.

290. The expenditure on original works of this nature declined by Rs. 17,311. "Repairs" shows a small increase of Rs. 2,623. The decrease in expenditure occurred in all the Divisions except Patna, where the total outlay rose from Rs. 7,929 to Rs. 16,311. All the District Boards in the Province incurred expenditure on original works, except Manbhum. The largest amounts were spent by the District Boards of Jessore (Rs. 17,178), Khulna (Rs. 12,841) and Nadia (Rs. 10,699). A large number of wells and tanks were constructed, excavated and repaired in the Jessore, Khulna, Patna, Gaya, Saran, Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Howrah districts. Water-supply and Water-works.

291. The total outlay under this head, both on original works and repairs, amounting to Rs. 3,786, against Rs. 1,593 in the previous year was incurred in the Presidency Division. The expenditure was mainly due to the maintenance of the Khurda Khal, the improvement of drains within the area of the Basudevpur Union in the 24-Parganas, and of drainage generally in the subdivisional town of Magura in Jessore. The work on the Magrahat scheme referred to in last year's report is proceeding under the control of the Public Works Department of Government. The scheme for the improvement of the Nawi and Sonthi rivers in the 24-Parganas has been sanctioned under the Sanitary Drainage Act. The scheme for the re-excavation of the Bagerkhal, and the improvement of the bed of the river Jamuna, which concerns the three districts of the 24-Parganas, Nadia and Jessore, is under survey. In Nadia, the Choroikol Drainage Scheme under the Bengal Drainage Act has been sanctioned by Government. The proposal of the Drainage Committee to create a special Engineering Division at the cost of General Revenues consisting of an Executive Engineer and subordinates, to be charged with the examination of the drainage conditions of specified areas and for the preparation of projects for the improvement of drainage where necessary, is still under the consideration of the Government of India. Drainage.

292. The expenditure on account of repairs of metalled and unmetalled district roads rose from Rs. 15,61,300 in 1906-1907 to Rs. 15,88,688, while that on account of construction increased from Rs. 13,97,057 to Rs. 16,58,699. The cost of construction of village roads also increased from Rs. 28,866 to Rs. 41,599. Special activity was displayed by the District Boards of Shahabad, Saran, Champaran, Darbhanga and Muzaffarpur in enforcing the by-laws for the preservation of roads and removal of encroachments on them. In Muzaffarpur 453 cases were instituted under the by-laws and 426 convictions were obtained. Eight hundred and forty-two encroachments were removed without prosecution on service of notices from the District Engineer's office, and 4 were rectified by subordinates during the execution of works. In Shahabad 110 cases were instituted under the by-law which Roads.

makes it an offence for carts to use the metalled portion of some roads during certain months of the year. In Saran 862 cases were instituted under the by-laws. The Commissioner has been asked to look into the nature of these cases, with a view to seeing that cart-drivers are not unnecessarily harassed by road subordinates.

Railway Feeder Roads.

293. It is satisfactory to notice that the progress under this head noticed in last year's Report was fully maintained during the year. In Burdwan four feeder roads were in progress of construction. In Birbhum Rs. 15,376 were spent on the improvement of certain feeder roads. In Bankura five such roads were completed and three were under construction. In Midnapore one feeder road was completed and three were under construction, on one of which, namely the road from Danton to Gopiballavpur, the Board spent Rs. 22,465 during the year. In Hooghly six roads were in course of construction, and Rs. 12,481 were spent on this account. In Howrah Rs. 11,464 and Rs. 18,535, respectively, were spent on the construction and improvements of roads communicating with the Bengal-Nagpur and the Howrah-Amta Railways. In the 24-Parganas three out of four feeder roads under construction in the previous year were completed. In the Gaya district Rs. 13,234 were spent on four feeder roads. In Shahabad the Sheosagar Feeder Road in the Sasaram subdivision and the Durgauti Feeder Road in the Bhabua subdivision were completed at a cost of Rs. 11,799 and Rs. 3,992, respectively. In Champaran out of the two feeder roads to Chainpatti station commenced during 1906-1907, the road from Chainpatti bazar to Chainpatti station was completed during the year. The improvement of the Baraila road in Muzaffarpur, a feeder to the Katihar branch of the Tirhut State Railway, was completed at a cost of Rs. 49,899. On the Jail Road, a feeder to the Jogiara station of the same railway, a masonry bridge of two spans of 10 feet each was built, while some earth work was done and boundary stone posts were fixed at an expenditure of Rs. 2,828. The District Boards of Monghyr and Bhagalpur are reported to have made further progress with feeder roads in these districts. The Cuttack District Board undertook the remodelling of the Vyas-sarobar-Jajpur Road at a cost of Rs. 15,418, and the gravelling of the Vyas-sarobar-Keonjhur Road (Rs. 4,293). In Balasore Rs. 9,832 were spent on the construction of the Kenduapada Feeder Road. In Puri the Delang-Kanas Road was under construction. The Hazaribagh District Board undertook the construction of a feeder road from the Grand Trunk Road to the Nimiaghat railway station on the Grand Chord line, involving an expenditure of Rs. 5,896.

Miscellaneous Improvements (Arboriculture).

294. The expenditure on arboriculture showed a further satisfactory rise from Rs. 29,017 in 1906-1907 to Rs. 37,588. The largest outlay (Rs. 5,017) was returned from Monghyr, and the smallest (Rs. 200) from Howrah. The District Boards in the Patna and Bhagalpur Divisions showed special activity in the promotion of roadside tree planting. New programmes for carrying out work on a systematic basis were prepared and acted upon by the District Boards of Hooghly, Saran, Monghyr, Purnea, Cuttack and Balasore. Ten District Boards are reported to have derived an income from the sale of fruits and timber, the largest income (Rs. 2,673) having been obtained by the Shahabad Board. There is no reason why all the Boards should not derive some income from this source. The work done by the Shahabad District Board deserves special mention. In that district 2,451 new gabions were constructed on the sides of the Anaith-Tikpukar and Bihia-Kamariawar Roads, while 2,698 gabions were renewed on the Garhani-Bihia Road. Seven hundred and fifteen trees were replanted, and 540 newly planted. The expenditure on the maintenance of nurseries and roadside trees amounted to Rs. 2,073. The new avenues, 38 miles long, on the Piru-Bihia, Sinha-Bihia, Nasriganj-Dumraon and Dharhara-Bahiara Roads have proved a complete success. Very good work in this respect was also done in the Monghyr district. Most of the District Boards deputed an Overseer or Sub-Overseer to the Royal Botanic Garden at Sibpur for training in Arboriculture, in accordance with the orders of Government.

Railways and Tramways.

295. The Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway and the Howrah-Amta line have now become a source of considerable revenue to the District Boards of the 24-Parganas and Howrah respectively. The extensions of the first named railway to Taki and Hasnabad and the construction of a branch line from

Beliaghatta station to Pattipukur were sanctioned by Government during the year. The further extension of the line to Satkhira is under consideration. In Nadia the estimate for the proposed light railway from Krishnagar to Jelinghee, as prepared by the Eastern Bengal State Railway, is still under consideration. The extension of the Bakhtiarpur-Bihar Railway, in the Patna district, to Silao has received the sanction of Government. The survey of the proposed light railway from Arrah to Sassaram has been completed, and the question of the construction of the line is now under consideration. A survey has also been made, and an estimate prepared, for the construction of a line from Dehri to Rohtas. In Saran land acquisition proceedings in connexion with the proposed Chapra-Masrakh line, and survey operations on the proposed Thawey-Domritola extension of the Bengal and North-Western Railway, were started during the year. The survey of the proposed direct line of railway from Muzaffarpur to Darbhanga, with a branch from Tewara to Sitamarhi, was completed by the Bengal and North-Western Railway Company. Statistics are being collected by the Monghyr District Board in connexion with a proposal to construct a light railway from Monghyr to Kharagpur. The four guaranteed lines in working order in the Province continued to work satisfactorily. The Boards' shares of the surplus profits in 1907 were—

	Rs.
Howrah (Howrah-Amta line)	40,536
Hooghly (Howrah-Seakhala)	2,729
24-Parganas (Baraset-Basirhat)	16,097
Patna (Bukhtiarpur-Bihar line)	4,501

Closing balances.

296. The actual aggregate closing balances of the 29 District Boards, excluding deposits, amounted to Rs. 25,86,456, against Rs. 27,98,583 at the close of the previous year. The decrease is satisfactory so far as it goes, but the Lieutenant-Governor desires to impress upon the Boards the necessity for further improvement in this respect. The attention of Commissioners has been directed to the remarks made on this subject in the Resolution on the Reports for the year 1906-1907. The best results during the year have been shown by the Bhagalpur Division, where the balances fell from Rs. 2,79,871 in 1906-1907 to Rs. 1,64,969, and the worst by the Chota Nagpur Division, where they rose from Rs. 2,57,521 to Rs. 4,32,094. Taking individual districts, the best results are returned from Monghyr, where out of a total sum of Rs. 3,72,922 available for expenditure, the balance at the end of the year was only Rs. 28,007 ; and the worst from Ranchi and Hazaribagh.

General remarks.

297. The record of the year's work is on the whole a satisfactory one. The Lieutenant-Governor has been much pleased to read the favourable reports recorded by most of the District Officers of the cordial relations that have existed between them and the District Boards, and of the active interest taken by members in the administrative work of the Boards. Sir Andrew Fraser desires to take this opportunity, at the close of his tenure of office, of placing on record his grateful acknowledgment of the assistance that has been rendered to Government by these bodies. In many cases, on the other hand, the attitude of the Local Boards is said to have been apathetic. Sir Andrew Fraser trusts, however, that his proposals for improving the status of these bodies may yet be given effect to, when it would be possible to assign to them extended functions and responsibilities, and thus increase their interest in the work. His Honour has already agreed to remove what is in many cases regarded as a grievance, by allowing non-official Vice-Chairmen of District Boards and non-official Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of Local Boards to draw travelling allowance for journeys performed in the interests of the Boards, and for the purposes of the Act.

Volunteering.

Total strength.

298. The number of enrolled volunteers and reservists during the year 1907-1908 was 6,273. The formation of an Independent Company of the Cadets of the Goethal Memorial Orphanage, Kurseong, under the Northern Bengal Mounted Rifles, and the splitting up of the F and G Companies

of the Eastern Bengal State Railway Volunteers Corps into four companies, viz. F, G, H and I with head-quarters for the last two Companies at Lalmonir Hât and Sealdah were sanctioned by Government. It was decided that absence of officers of Government on volunteer duty should be reckoned as absence on casual leave, though it should not be taken into account as part of the ten days' casual leave in the year allowed by rule to officers in Bengal.

Two beds in the Paying Patients' block in the Presidency General Hospital, Calcutta, towards the construction of which a sum of Rs. 29,500 was contributed from the Lumsden's Horse Funds, have been set apart for the use of Mounted Volunteers in India at half rates.

Marine.

[The information contained in the Chapter has been obtained partly from the correspondence with the officers and public bodies with whom the Marine Department is concerned, and partly from certain reports which are annually submitted to that Department. The reports consulted are as follows :—

Annual Report of the Port Officer, Calcutta, for 1907-1908.
Report on the working of the Shipping Offices at the Port of Calcutta and the Ports of Orrisa for the year 1907-1908.
Annual Report of the Health Officer of the Port of Calcutta.
Annual Report of the Smoke-nuisances Commission.]

THE PORT OF CALCUTTA.

Pilot Service.

299. There were 52 Pilots on the active list at the close of the year 1907-1908, against 50 at the end of 1906-1907. There were two casualties, one Branch Pilot and one Leadsman Apprentice having been invalided during the year. Five Leadsmen were recruited from England. It was intended to fill one of these appointments locally, but no eligible candidate came forward. Arrangements have been made to obtain three recruits during the current year to meet the requirements of the service.

Receipts from pilotage.

300. The pilotage receipts amounted to Rs. 13,49,151 during the year as against Rs. 14,21,189, Rs. 13,62,785, and Rs. 13,54,169, respectively, during the past three years. The rates for pilotage vary with the draft of the vessel and not with the tonnage, and the fall in the receipts would appear to indicate that a larger tonnage of cargo is now being carried for the same draught.

Arrival and departure of vessels.

301. One thousand five hundred and sixty-seven vessels arrived at the port and 1,562 departed with a gross tonnage of 6,010,081 inwards and 5,985,574 outwards. The average tonnage of vessels inwards and outwards was 3,824, as compared with 3,846, 3,722 and 3,734, the averages for the three previous years respectively.

There has been an increase in the number of inward vessels drawing over 21 feet and decrease in the outward as compared with those of the previous year. The number of such vessels piloted inwards and outwards was 334 and 896, against 315 and 954 respectively in the year before. One sailing ship of more than 21 feet draught entered the port and one departed during the year.

Six inward vessels only were neaped at Diamond Harbour during the year for want of sufficient depth of water over the bars of the river, while last year *twenty* vessels were neaped at Diamond Harbour, *one* at Saugor Island and *six* at Calcutta. The bars were exceptionally good during the year. Only *six* vessels were detained at the Sandheads for want of pilots, against *thirteen* during the previous year, the average detention being 29 hours and 4 minutes.

Casualties.

302. There were 5 collisions and 20 groundings, against 9 collisions and 30 groundings in the previous year. In two cases of collisions the pilots were found to have been negligent. In respect to the groundings, the pilots were in fault for error of judgment in two cases only.

Fifty-four preliminary enquiries into casualties on the river were held, as the result of which three cases were referred to Departmental Courts and five to special Courts of Enquiry. No Marine Court under Act XII of 1859 was held during the year.

Examinations.

303. Eighty-three candidates appeared at examinations for Colonial and Home Trade Certificates of Competency, of whom forty-six passed. Four

hundred and thirty-two candidates appeared at examinations for Certificates of Competency as Master, Serang, Engineer and Engine-driver under the Inland Steam-vessels Act, VI of 1884, but only 250 passed.

CALCUTTA SHIPPING OFFICE.

Finance.

304. The receipts of the Calcutta Shipping office during the year 1907-1908 amounted to Rs. 80,453, against Rs. 84,380 in the preceding year. The decrease of Rs. 3,927 in the receipts is due, mainly, to the falling off in receipts under the heads "Shipping fees," "Discharging fees" and "Overtime fees."

The expenditure was Rs. 42,112 as compared with Rs. 42,214 in the past year.

Seamen shipped and discharged.

305. The number of seamen, shipped and discharged, were—

Shipped	40,356
Discharged	35,170

The shipments and discharges both under the European and the Indian articles during the year under review show a decrease as compared with the last year's figures. The figures are as below:—

Shipments.

	1906-07.	1907-08.	Increase.	Decrease.
European articles	946	581	Nil	365
Indian „	40,587	39,775	Nil	812

Discharges.

European articles	1,132	752	Nil	380
Indian „	36,521	34,418	Nil	2,103

The decreases under the European articles may be accounted for by the larger employment of native crews, while those under the native articles may be ascribed to the effect of the amendment of the law relating to foreign running agreements by Act VI of 1906, as noticed last year.

Seamen shipped and discharged by foreign Consuls were 103 and 97 respectively.

Thirty-four seamen were repatriated during the year under the Distressed Seamen's Regulations, against 35 in the previous year; of these, 3 were on account of paucity of employment, 1, old age and infirmity and 30 owing to sickness and injury; he expenses for the latter are, however, borne by the owners of the vessels to which the seamen belong, under the provisions of section 34 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1906.

HEALTH OF THE PORT.

Inspection of vessels.

306. During the year under report, the Health Officer inspected 1,091 incoming vessels out of 1,554 which arrived in the Port, the corresponding figures for the previous year being 836 and 1,598, respectively. The total number of out-going vessels inspected by the Health Officer, including those of between 100 to 200 tons, which are not required to take Pilots and are not, therefore, entered in the Port Office Register, was 1,649 against 1,700. The number of European and Asiatic seamen inspected during 1907 was larger than that in 1906, in the case of inward-bound vessels by 3,271 and smaller in the case of out-going vessels by 2,185. Of the crews and passengers inspected by the Health Officer, viz., 313,183 against 289,044 of 1906, ·26 per cent. were rejected against ·29 in the previous year; 12,776 cargo-boats were inspected against 13,127 in 1906.

Health of the Port.

307. During the year under report, 21,561 European seamen arrived in the Port. In the case of the European seamen, the total number of admissions into hospitals was 718 against 894 in 1906. The number was less under all heads of diseases except "Cholera," "Diarrhœa" and "Scurvy." The number of admissions from venereal diseases was also less, being 118 against 163 of 1906. The death-rate was also less, being 10·56 against 11·42 per mille.

Amongst the native floating population the mortality from cholera was much higher in 1907 than in 1906 (65 against 48), the mortality from fever and bowel-complaints being less.

The "Clayton" apparatus has been obtained from England for fumigating vessels with sulphur.

CALCUTTA PORT TRUST.

Revenue receipts and expenditure.

308. The income of the year amounted to Rs. 1,09,57,142, against Rs. 1,09,08,737 in 1906-1907. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,07,84,105, the surplus being Rs. 1,73,037. Adding this amount to the Revenue balance on 1st April 1907, the net surplus revenue was Rs. 31,32,571. Out of this *surplus* revenue Rs. 1,00,561 have been set aside to meet transactions under Revenue Reserve Account during 1907-1908 so that the total at credit of Revenue account on 31st March 1908 was Rs. 30,32,010.

Capital outlay.

309. The expenditure during 1907-1908 upon Capital Works was Rs. 33,54,878. The more important works completed or in progress during the year were extension of the Jetties; remodelling of the Budge-Budge Petroleum Depôt; sixty additional open wagons; Hide Depôts at the Docks; extension of the Hydraulic Pumping station at the Docks; extension of Dock No. 2; the opening of Ferry Service with eight steamers; new Workshops and Stores building at Garden Reach; further extension of the Sale Tea Warehouse at the Docks; the Suction Dredger "Sandpiper."

Capital Account.

310. The Capital debt of the trust on 31st March 1908 was Rs. 6,25,16,051, against this the Commissioners hold properties aggregating Rs. 8,39,84,819. The latter figure does not represent the total value of the Commissioners' properties, as the value of a large area of land is included in the assets at cost price only. The Commissioners have also accumulated Rs. 68,26,039 at credit of their Sinking Fund for repayment of debenture loans. The position of the Commissioners in respect of their loan account is therefore satisfactory.

Depreciation and Fire Insurance Funds.

311. In addition to the Revenue Reserve Fund and Sinking Funds, the Commissioners have a Depreciation Fund for vessels and plant and a Fire Insurance Fund. The amount standing at credit of the Depreciation Fund on 31st March 1908 was Rs. 5,63,137, out of which an expenditure of Rs. 2,78,440 was charged against this Fund, leaving a balance of Rs. 5,63,137. The total accumulation under the Fire Insurance Fund was Rs. 6,65,801 which includes contributions by revenue and interest on securities amounting to Rs. 34,495. An expenditure of Rs. 1,286 was charged against the latter Fund.

Working results of 1907-1908 compared with 1906-1907.

312. The following table shows the details of the receipts and charges of the Revenue Account for the year 1907-1908, as compared with similar figures of the previous year :—

	1907-1908.				1906-1907.				Difference between 1907-1908 and 1906-1907.	
	Income.	Expenditure.	Net revenue.	Net deficit.	Income.	Expenditure.	Net revenue.	Net deficit.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Control	4,206	8,06,982	...	8,02,776	3,504	6,68,257	...	6,64,753	...	1,38,023
II.—Jetties	15,69,640	8,32,207	7,37,433	...	13,04,375	7,69,921	5,34,452	...	2,02,981	...
III.—Tea Warehouse ...	1,60,622	1,03,452	57,170	...	1,66,693	1,08,207	58,486	...	...	1,316
IV.—Petroleum Wharf ...	1,89,243	39,519	1,49,724	...	2,08,429	33,900	1,74,529	...	...	24,805
V.—I. V. Wharves ...	4,18,151	1,35,229	2,82,922	...	4,68,092	1,74,089	2,94,003	...	...	11,081
VI.—Rentable lands and buildings.	11,13,462	1,15,059	9,98,403	...	9,29,036	1,19,308	8,09,728	...	1,88,675	...
VII.—Port	5,13,377	5,18,949	...	5,572	5,72,324	6,16,370	...	44,046	38,474	...
VIII.—Port Approaches ...	6,95,329	6,31,666	63,663	...	7,00,824	5,08,218	1,92,606	...	...	1,28,943
IX.—Railway	13,16,014	8,97,774	4,18,240	...	13,32,903	8,09,025	5,73,878	...	...	1,55,638
X.—Wet Docks	27,12,997	29,00,535	...	1,87,538	24,31,254	27,60,714	...	3,29,460	1,41,922	...
XI.—Dry do.	3,06,340	79,923	2,26,417	...	2,87,706	74,886	2,12,820	...	13,597	...
XII.—Ferry Service ...	46,075	70,500	...	24,425	...	...	...	...	...	24,425
XIII.—River dues	18,18,028	...	18,18,028	...	14,25,914	...	14,25,914	...	3,92,114	...
Sale of unserviceable material.	40,205	...	40,205	...	16,020	...	16,020	...	24,185	...
Contribution from Howrah bridge.	19,957	...	19,957	...	19,677	...	19,677	...	280	...
Interest on Revenue reserve.	33,497	...	33,497	...	41,948	...	41,948	...	...	8,451
Interest and sinking fund.	...	36,52,310	...	36,52,310	...	32,47,914	...	32,47,914	...	4,04,396
Total	1,09,57,143	1,07,84,105	48,45,659	46,72,621	99 58,697	98,90,809	43,54,061	42,86,173	10,02,228	8,97,078
Net result of transactions in respect of previous year's revenue.	...	...	...	...	50,040	...	50,040	...	...	50,040
Grand Total ...	1,09,57,143	1,07,84,105	48,45,659	46,72,621	1,00,08,737	98,90,809	44,04,101	42,86,173	10,02,228	9,47,118

In 1907-1908, 1,556 vessels with a gross registered tonnage of 5,995,275 visited the Port, against 1,595 vessels with a gross registered tonnage of 6,186,751. The increase of nearly Rs. 10 lakhs in the income of the Trust was derived from the Jetties, rentable lands and buildings, Wet Docks, Dry Docks, and River Dues. There was also an income of Rs. 46,075 from the Ferry Service which was opened for the first time in the month of October 1907.

HOWRAH BRIDGE.

313. The income of the year amounted to Rs. 2,40,593 as against Rs. 2,37,016 and the expenditure to Rs. 2,21,111 as against Rs. 2,06,654 in the previous year, leaving a surplus of Rs. 19,482 as compared with a surplus of Rs. 30,362 in 1906-1907. The receipts from the toll payable by the East Indian Railway for the traffic passing over the Bridge rose from Rs. 2,12,474 to Rs. 2,16,360. Finance.

314. The Bridge was opened on 303 occasions, of which 88 were day openings and 215 were night openings. Openings of the Bridge.

The number of vessels which passed through the Bridge was 3,020, against 3,142 in the previous year.

315. The total number of accidents was 34, as compared with 31 in the previous year. The accidents to cargo and passenger boats were 27, against 29 in 1906-1907. In one accident the steam-launch "Hathi" sank, but no lives were lost. During the year, 13 cargo-boats were lost and in one case the *manjhi* was drowned. Accidents.

THE PORTS OF ORISSA.

316. The receipts of the ports amounted to Rs. 6,522-3-9 during the year, as compared with Rs. 14,934 in 1906-1907. The decrease of Rs. 8,411-12-3 in the receipts is due to smaller amounts being realized as port dues during the year, as the number of vessels visiting the ports in 1907-1908 was much less than in the previous year. This is accounted for by a poor harvest as a consequence of which there was less rice available for export than is customary. Finance.

The expenditure amounted to Rs. 17,732-5-3, against Rs. 13,871 in the previous year. The rise is chiefly due to increases of expenditure under the head "Pension" at Cuttack, and under "Petty construction and repairs" and "Dockyard services and supplies" at Balasore.

The receipts together with the opening balance of Rs. 8,216-5-1 amounted to Rs. 14,738-8-10. There was thus an excess expenditure of Rs. 2,993-12-5 which will have to be met by a contribution from Government.

317. The value of trade during 1907-1908 was Rs. 54,45,337, against Rs. 1,04,22,811 in the previous year. Trade.

318. One hundred and fifty-seven vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 69,550 tons visited the ports during the year, against 226 vessels with an aggregate tonnage of 171,112 tons in the preceding year. Shipping.

319. The passenger traffic between the Orissa Ports and Calcutta showed some slight increase during the year. The number of passengers, carried between Calcutta and Chandbali and *vice versâ*, which form the bulk of the traffic, was 37,659 and 49,060 against 34,495 and 31,391 in the previous year. Passenger traffic.

320. The Port Officer of Calcutta inspected all the ports and lighthouses during the year. They were found to be in a satisfactory condition. The erosion of the Shortt's Island on the sea-face continues. Inspections.

STEAM BOILERS COMMISSION.

321. The total number of boilers inspected and passed for certificates during the year 1907-1908, both in Calcutta and the added areas, was 3,678, as against 3,215 in 1906-1907, 3,024 in 1905-1906, 2,759 in 1904-1905 and 2,596 in 1903-1904. The number of registered boilers not presented for inspection during the year was 681. Out of this number, 129 boilers were struck off the registers, owing to their not being used for five consecutive years, Inspection of boilers.

or removed out of jurisdiction or found unfit for further service. The increase in the number of boilers inspected during the year under notice was largely attributable to the extraordinary number of boilers sent to the colliery district on the opening of new mines.

SMOKE NUISANCES COMMISSION.

Observations warnings and prosecutions.

322. In 1907-1908 the Chief Inspector and the Assistant Inspector of smoke nuisances made 3,900 observations of smoke emitted from chimneys, and over 2,400 inspections of furnaces. The appliances for stoking were tested in 71 cases, and mechanical stokers and smoke-preventing appliances were fitted to 91 furnaces. Statutory warnings were served on the owners of mill-factories in 74 cases. Prosecutions were instituted in three cases, in all of which a conviction was obtained.

Reduction of smoke in Calcutta and Howrah.

323. In Calcutta and Howrah, there was an average emission of dense black smoke for 2·5 minutes in the hour in March 1908, against 3·28 minutes in the hour in April 1907 and 13 minutes in the hour in April 1906, when the work of the Commission was first commenced. This result is satisfactory. Gas and electric motive power supplied from street mains are being introduced into a few factories in place of steam-power so as to avoid smoke.

Complaints.

324. The Commission received during the year 15 written complaints, all of which were attended to promptly. Formerly considerable difficulty was experienced in getting the chimneys of mill factories raised, but this difficulty is likely to diminish, as the owners realize that a better draught, easier steam, and smaller consumption of fuel are obtained by so doing.

CHAPTER IV.—PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

Agriculture.

[Report of the Department of Agriculture for the year ending the 30th June 1908.]

Organization of the Department.

325. The Director of Agriculture has been gazetted Director of Co-operative Credit Societies, and the Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies who has been made subordinate to that officer has been appointed an Assistant Director of Agriculture.

Agricultural Associations, Fairs and Exhibitions.

326. With the establishment of the Bhagalpur Association in May, there is now a Divisional Agricultural Association in each division. The Patna and Orissa Divisional Associations continued to do good work, and the Burdwan Association made great strides under its President, Mr. S. L. Maddox. Several members of Divisional and District Associations did useful work. The Agricultural shows and fairs held during the year received grants-in-aid from Government, aggregating Rs. 7,050.

Publication of agricultural information.

327. A quarterly journal of agriculture was started with the object of making known to the Agricultural Associations and to the public generally what is being done by the Department, and four issues were published during the year. Twelve leaflets, on various subjects connected with agriculture, were prepared and widely circulated. The Department also published a list of local names of varieties of sugarcane, and issued, for the use of local officers, a statement showing the normal areas under the principal crops in each district and the percentage of these areas to the normal nett-cropped area of the district. An agricultural survey of the varieties of wheat grown in this Province was completed during the year, and the results have been published as Departmental Record No. 2. A survey of soils has also been made by Mr. D. N. Mukherjee, the results of which will shortly be published.

Agricultural stations.

328. Considerable progress was made towards completing the requirements of the Province in respect of Agricultural stations contemplated in the scheme for the development of the Agricultural Department. The stations at Bankipore and Sabour are practically complete. At Chinsura, which will represent the deltaic alluvium, much progress has been made. At Kharagpur 200 acres of land have been made over by the Public Works Department for a station to represent the laterite area which stretches across the districts of Midnapore, Birbhum and Bankura. A site has also been selected, and the land will shortly be acquired, for a station at Ranchi representative of the peculiar agricultural conditions of the Chota Nagpur plateau. These will complete the required number of stations.

A demonstration farm, consisting of about 70 acres, has been opened at Kalimpong in the district of Darjeeling. It will be worked by the St. Andrew's Colonial Homes assisted by a Government grant of Rs. 5,000 per annum for five years, but the demonstration work will be guided by the Deputy Director of Agriculture.

The Agricultural Department has also been given 50 acres of land for a special demonstration farm at Fraserganj.

Agricultural Education.

329. At the annual examination held in November 1907, seven students of the agricultural classes at Sibpur obtained diplomas. One of these has been appointed a Deputy Collector and another a Sub-Deputy Collector. Two students have been sent to the Cornell University in America for further scientific and practical training. The four students sent to America in 1905 returned in December 1907. The services of one of them have been placed at the disposal of the Government of Eastern Bengal and Assam; and the other three are employed at the Provincial Agricultural College. Favourable reports continued to be received in respect of the students still in America.

The syllabus of agricultural teaching framed in 1906-1907 has been introduced in the agricultural classes attached to the Cuttack Ravenshaw College and elsewhere.

Scientific Experiments.

330. Experiments on the lines indicated by the Inspector-General of Agriculture were carried on with success at Burdwan and Cuttack. The results have been published in a special leaflet, English and vernacular copies of which have been freely distributed in all jute-growing districts of the Province. Two well-equipped jute seed farms, one at Purnea and the other at Berhampore, were maintained by the Provincial Agricultural Association, and the 53 acres under cultivation in these farms yielded 230 maunds of excellent seed. The low price of jute and high prices of food-grains, combined with unfavourable weather, hindered the jute experiments undertaken by the indigo planters of North Bihar and had the effect of considerably decreasing the area sown by them during the year.

Experiments in the cultivation of flax had been going on for some time in Bihar. In 1906-1907 the Bihar Indigo Planters' Association, assisted by a grant from Government, procured the services of a Belgian expert, Mr. E. Vandekerkhove. His work has had some encouraging results, and it has been decided to retain his services for five years, the Imperial Agricultural Department meeting one-half of his salary, and the Provincial Department the other half, all other expenses being defrayed by the proprietors of the Dooria Indigo Concern.

The experimental cotton cultivation at Chakradharpur proved a failure as the land was unsuited to the crop.

Irrigation.

331. The well-boring staff sanctioned in 1906-1907 in accordance with the recommendations of the Indian Irrigation Commission has commenced its work. A first-grade sub-overseer of the Public Works Department was appointed Superintendent of Well-borings in February 1908, and was in training for two months at Cawnpore under the Director of Agriculture, United Provinces. The Superintendent has made trial borings at Sabour, Bankipore and Pusa, and is now stationed at Bankipore where he is training 12 borers, one for each district of the Bhagalpur and Patna Divisions. The question of employing a special staff to draw up reports and maps showing the local conditions and needs of each tract as regards irrigation, embankments, etc., and to help small proprietors and tenants to make the best use of their opportunities for improving the irrigation of their lands is still under consideration.

Sericulture.

332. To give effect to the recommendations of the Commission appointed to enquire into the state of the silk industry and the causes of its decline, Babu Apurba Kumar Ghosh, who had been trained in scientific methods of sericulture by the late Mr. N. G. Mukharji, was appointed Superintendent of Sericulture, with effect from the 1st April 1908. The sericultural work has been placed under the control of a Managing Committee with the Director of Agriculture as its President. On a suitable plot of Government land 60 acres of mulberry have been planted out, and plans and estimates have been prepared for a central nursery and five subsidiary nurseries. Certain experiments conducted by the Superintendent in connection with the cold storage of seed cocoons have been successful.

Indigo and Sugar in Bihar.

333. The indigo research work, aided by a Government grant of Rs. 50,000, was continued. The staff, in spite of unavoidable changes in its *personnel*, did good work, and received the thanks of the Bihar Indigo Planters' Association. The research station was visited during the year by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, the Hon'ble Mr. R. T. Greer, C.S.I., Member of the Board of Revenue, and the Inspector-General of Agriculture in India.

Mr. Percy Jones, of Benipur Factory, who has for some time been experimenting with a cane-crushing mill and two *rab*-making appliances supplied by the Agricultural Department, worked the system at a profit of Rs. 2,365, and he expects larger profits in 1908-1909.

Quinquennial wage census.

334. The statistics of wages of skilled and unskilled labour now furnished in the fortnightly returns being unsatisfactory, the system will be replaced by a quinquennial wage census to be carried out by the Director of Agriculture on the lines of a scheme drawn up by Mr. Moreland, Director of Land Records and Agriculture, United Provinces of Agra and Oudh. Arrangements were made during the year to hold the first census in August 1908. One officer

was chosen from each district for the collection of the required statistics. These officers were called together in Calcutta, and the Director, after having consulted Mr. Moreland at Lucknow, explained to them the methods and objects of the enquiry. The statistics thus collected were to be checked by means of returns obtained from non-official gentlemen who were furnished with forms and suitable instructions.

Co-operative Credit Societies.

[Report on the working of the Co-operative Credit Societies.]

335. The Director of Agriculture has recently been appointed Director of Co-operative Credit Societies. He retains control of the general policy of the Department, while the Registrar is in full charge and responsible for the detailed working. Administrative changes.

336. The number of urban societies with limited liability has increased from four to nine; their share capital from Rs. 8,666 to Rs. 19,000; deposits from Rs. 6,889 to Rs. 12,950; and reserve funds from Rs. 1,760 to Rs. 4,246. Besides these, there are ten so-called urban societies with unlimited liability. The number of rural societies has been almost doubled, having risen from 165 to 326. Their membership has grown from 6,903 to 11,076; assets from Rs. 85,740 to Rs. 1,95,409; members' deposits from Rs. 11,167 to Rs. 21,246; and reserve funds from Rs. 11,029 to Rs. 20,000. Grain societies show practically no extension. The possibilities of this form of co-operation are doubtful, and experience is not sufficient to warrant definite conclusions. For the present the attention of the Department to development in this direction is principally concentrated on a system of village societies attached to central *golas* which is on its trial in the Sonthal Parganas. Number of Societies.

337. In Bengal there are two main types of society—the urban, with limited liability, which is based on the Luzzatti model; and the rural, with unlimited liability, which follows Raifeisson principle. It is to the latter, as forming the basis of all successful work in rural Bengal, that attention is mainly directed. The chief feature of the year has been the attempt to deal with rural societies on an organized system. The supreme importance of inspecting and controlling societies at all stages of their growth, and specially in infancy, is the principal lesson of the last three years' work. In this respect Bengal is merely repeating the experience of every other country. With nearly 400 societies the Registrar can give only a very small portion of his time to each, and his isolated periodic inspections cannot be very effective. Continuous local control is required. In this matter the honorary organizers have rendered the greatest assistance. Their number has risen from three to eight, and it is hoped that others will come forward in every district. Also ten local inspecting clerks have been appointed in the more important areas. At present they are paid by Government, but in time they will become a charge on the societies. They supply the Registrar with a useful channel of communication and control. In the Registrar's opinion the number of societies could be enormously increased in a very short time. But unless some means is devised of controlling and organizing the societies as they come into existence all safe advance beyond a very narrow limit is barred. That Government should indefinitely finance the machinery of control is a possible but not a very sound solution. The machinery, in order to be effective and to respond automatically to an indefinite expansion, must be supplied by the societies themselves as in Europe. A scheme for combining societies in local unions for purposes of finance and control is now before Government, and in the coming cold weather a serious attempt will be made to initiate it. General aspects.

The analysis of the sources from which the capital of rural societies is drawn shows that public confidence in the movement is growing. No less than 45 per cent. of the total has been supplied by investors. The societies themselves have provided 13 per cent. It is less gratifying to notice that local capital amounts to only 2 per cent. This capital will be attracted only when societies gain the confidence of the locality, as is the case in Midnapore. The rates offered must also bear a reasonable relation to those prevailing in the neighbourhood. Comparison shows that in the more important districts the

interest offered is not too low. The union scheme, if it proves practicable, will do much to gain the confidence of local capitalists. It is hoped that the double security provided by the limited liability of the union and the unlimited liability of each affiliated society for its own funds will attract that local capital which the isolated societies have failed so far to secure.

Full statistics of loans for all rural societies and their objects are interesting. These numbered 8,195, and amounted to Rs. 1,45,468. The average loan per member was therefore just under Rs. 18. The average is higher than last year's, owing to the more adequate financing of the societies. The purposes are not, as a rule, varied. They show that most of the societies are in the rudimentary stage when necessity, rather than considerations of profit, determines the object of loans. Thus 75 per cent. of all loans was applied to the repayment of old debts, cultivation and the purchase of cattle—the three primary needs of the poor agriculturist. It is only as members free themselves from their loan of debt that they become able to apply their loans to other profitable, but less essential, objects. Over 96 per cent. of the loans was employed for purposes either directly or indirectly productive, while a little over 2 per cent. was unproductive. These statistics indicate that the societies are really benefiting their members, and that they can be trusted to apply their capital usefully and profitably.

Urban societies have made considerable progress. That they are not more numerous is due to the fact that the whole energy of the Registrar and his staff has been devoted to the work in rural districts. Urban societies, being composed of more or less educated and responsible members, require much less supervision than the rural type, and can hardly fail of success. More attention will be given to them next year. A pamphlet explaining the benefits of, and giving instructions for founding, such societies will shortly be issued. It is hoped that the larger firms in Calcutta will take up the scheme, and that it will be possible to form *amlas'* societies in most of the districts of the Province.

Although statistics indicate a remarkable development during the year under report, there is a certain danger of excessive confidence. Most of the societies appreciate the fundamental principles and the cardinal importance of combination; and it has been proved that a co-operative credit society can be successfully managed by the cultivators themselves. But very few of the societies can be called fully co-operative in the true sense. Much supervision and assistance along the path of progress is still necessary. While the progress has been more than encouraging and defects are only to be expected, the societies will require constant nursing until the co-operative idea takes firmer root. While the work in backward and untouched districts should be developed as far as possible, consolidation and combination rather that extension should be the policy in districts which have honorary organizers and a large number of societies. The future of the movement now depends chiefly upon organization.

Weather and Crops.

[Season and Crop Report of Bengal for 1907-1908; Crop Forecasts of Bengal for 1907-1908; Report on Land Revenue Administration of the Lower Provinces for 1907-1908.]

Character of the Season.

338. In March, the rainfall was much above the normal throughout the Province. In April rain was general and in most parts in excess of the normal. The unusually heavy rain and cloudy weather during these two months did widespread damage in Bihar to the *rabi* crops when they were ripening and being harvested. In Lower Bengal, however, it was generally beneficial, as cultivators were enabled to prepare their lands earlier for the next season's crops. In May and the early part of June, rain was deficient, but the monsoon set in seasonably and improved prospects. In July, the fall was below the average. In August, it was deficient in Lower Bengal and Bihar, slightly above the average in Chota Nagpur and heavy in Orissa, resulting in high floods in the Cuttack and Balasore districts. In September, the rainfall was below the normal throughout the Province, and in October and November there was practically no rain. This drought affected the outturn of both *bhadoi* and *aghani* crops and curtailed

rabi sowings. Rain came in the middle of December, and the showers in January and February improved prospects in Bihar.

339. The following table furnishes the estimated area and outturn in 1907-1908 of *bhadoi*, winter and *rabi* harvests, as compared with those of the previous year and a normal year:— **Outturn of harvests.**

Name of harvest.	Normal area in acres.	Area cultivated during 1906-1907, in acres.	Area cultivated during 1907-1908, in acres.	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn, how much represented the outturn for the year 1906-1907.	Taking 100 to represent the normal outturn, how much represented the outturn for the year 1907-1908.
Bhadoi ...	11,306,900	10,447,700	11,104,500	69	72
Winter { Winter rice	20,824,900	20,043,400	19,845,300	78	53
Winter { Sugarcane ...	438,900	424,500	435,500	90	85
Rabi	12,255,000	11,427,700	9,024,700	71	68
Total ...	44,825,700	42,343,300	40,410,000	74	62

The normal cropped area of the Province including the twice-cropped area in a normal year, is estimated at 44⅘ million acres of which winter rice occupies about 20⅘ million acres, the various *bhadoi* food-crops about 9 million acres and the *rabi* food-crops about 9½ million acres. Sugarcane was grown on about half a million acres.

340. From the above statement, it will be seen that the total area cultivated during 1907-1908 under all kinds of *bhadoi* crops was estimated at 11,104,500 acres against 10,447,700 acres in the preceding year and a normal area of 11,306,900 acres. The outturn was estimated at 72 per cent. in 1907-1908, against 69 per cent. in 1906-1907. The season throughout the Province was unfavourable for the *bhadoi* crops. In South-East Bengal, Bihar and portions of Chota Nagpur crops were damaged by heavy rain. The greater portion of Bihar suffered in July from want of moisture, and abnormal rain in August injured the crops in Orissa, Chota Nagpur and in the South Bihar districts. The absence of rain after the beginning of September aggravated the injury. Food crops occupied 9,348,200 acres as compared with a normal area of 9,468,200 acres. Their outturn was estimated at 72 per cent. of the normal. The various non-food crops including jute, early cotton, indigo and *bhadoi til* were sown on 1,756,300 acres against a normal area of 1,838,700 acres. Seasonable rain was received in the early part of the jute season, and in consequence sowings were normal in most parts of the Province. Heavy rain did some damage to the young crops in Hooghly, Howrah, Jessore and Khulna. Later on in July and August the weather was unfavourable. While rain was deficient in most of the jute districts, floods damaged the crop in Cuttack, Balasore and Midnapore. The estimated outturn amounted to 73·67 per cent. of the normal. The season was favourable for the indigo crop. The outturn of the crop in North Bihar was estimated at 86 per cent. of the normal, and that in Lower Bengal and the minor districts of Bihar at 52 per cent. Accordingly the anticipated outturn of the crop amounted to 29,913 factory maunds. The total outturn of the different *bhadoi* non-food crops amounted to 72 per cent. of the normal. ***Bhadoi* or autumn crops.**

341. The monsoons set in about the middle of June and helped the growth of paddy seedlings which had suffered for want of rain in the earlier part of the season, but after this, transplantation was much delayed for want of moisture. Rain fell towards the end of August, but while it helped on transplantation in many localities, it caused floods in Orissa, Chota Nagpur and portions of South Bihar as well as in parts of Midnapore, Howrah and the 24-Parganas. The failure of rain in September and October aggravated the situation. The paddy on high lands was a total failure. The area ***Aghani* crops.**

cultivated was 19,845,300 acres, against 20,043,400 acres sown in 1906-1907 and a normal area of 20,824,900 acres.

The outturn for the Province amounted to 53 per cent. of the normal against 78 per cent. in 1906-1907.

The sugarcane crop which did well up to the end of August suffered to some extent from the short rainfall from September to November. The outturn was estimated by this Department at 85 per cent. of the normal.

Rabi or spring crops.

342. Early cessation of the monsoon rain prevented the sowing of the total normal area and affected the growth of the crops sown. The rain which fell in the middle of December and in January and February improved matters, especially in Bihar. The season was a bad one in Lower Bengal and in Chota Nagpur and unfavourable in the Bhagalpur and Patna Divisions. The total area under all *rabi* crops was estimated at 9,024,700 acres, against 11,427,700 acres of the preceding year, the total normal area being 12,255,000 acres. The total area of various *rabi* food crops, including wheat, amounted to 6,838,700 acres against 8,399,300 acres, the estimate for the year 1906-1907. The outturn amounted to 69 per cent. of the normal. The area sown with *rabi* non-food crops was 2,186,000 acres against a normal area of 3,402,600 acres. The outturn was estimated at 67 per cent. of the normal. The total outturn of all *rabi* crops was returned as 69 per cent. of the normal.

Both the early and late cotton crops suffered from drought in September and October. The total outturn of the crop for the whole Province amounted, according to District estimates, to 15,212 bales.

Divisional Summary.

Burdwan Division.

343. In the beginning of the season, copious rain fell in the Burdwan Division, but there was no rain after September, and much of the *aman* paddy, then in ear, withered away, while the cultivation and sowing of the *rabi* crops were seriously affected. The outturn of the *bhadoi* food-crops of the Division was 63 per cent. and that of winter rice 47 per cent. *Rabi* food-crops yielded 61 per cent. of the normal.

Presidency Division.

344. The rainfall in the Presidency Division was unusually heavy in June and July, insufficient in August and September, and scanty in October and November. The outturn of crops was, therefore, unsatisfactory in all the districts of the Division. *Bhadoi* food-crops gave an outturn of only 65 per cent. while winter rice yielded 57 per cent. of a normal crop. The outturn of *rabi* food-crops was estimated at 50 per cent.

Patna Division.

345. The rainfall in the Patna Division was not well distributed. There was no rain after September and the outturn of the paddy crops was seriously affected. The sowing of the *rabi* crops was also retarded and a comparatively small area was sown owing to want of moisture. Had there been no rain in January and the first week of February, the *rabi* crops would have failed. In Gaya, though the fall was a little above the average, it was very badly distributed. The districts of Patna, Gaya, Shahabad, Saran and Champaran all suffered more or less in consequence of deficient and badly distributed rain, and the yield everywhere, except in Darbhanga, was much below the average. The maize crop in Darbhanga last year was much above the normal, and the yield in Muzaffarpur and Darbhanga was better during the year than in the preceding year. The outturn of the *bhadoi* food-crops for the Division was estimated at 81 per cent., of winter rice at 54 per cent., and of *rabi* food-crops at 74 per cent., of the normal. The outturn of opium and sugarcane was 72 and 75 per cent., respectively, and of indigo 85 per cent.

Bhagalpur Division.

346. In the Bhagalpur Division, the season was favourable in the beginning. In the end of June there was excessive rain, and subsequently the fall was below the normal, and from the middle of December there was an almost total absence of rain throughout the Division. The general result on the harvests of the year was that all the crops suffered more or less in all the districts, especially in the Sonthal Parganas. Though the harvests were generally better than those of the preceding year, except in the Sonthal Parganas, they were still below the normal. The divisional outturn of the *bhadoi* food-crops was estimated at 83 per cent., of winter rice at 62 per cent. and of *rabi* food-crops at 70 per cent. The outturn of indigo and opium was respectively 63 and 52 per cent. of the normal and that of sugarcane 80 per cent.

347. In the Orissa Division, the rainfall was irregular and untimely. The year was marked by an unusually heavy downpour in August resulting in record floods, which did considerable damage to the *bhadoi* and winter crops. The floods were followed by a long period of drought which entirely destroyed the rice crop in some parts of the Division, and seriously affected it in others. The *rabi* crops and *dalua* paddy, which had been grown on lands where the previous crops had been destroyed by floods, suffered from subsequent failure of rain. The year was also unfavourable to the mango and *mahua* crops in Angul, but the outturn of *kendu* (*Diospyros Melanoxylon*) in that district was satisfactory, and this helped the poorer classes to tide over the months of May and June. In Sambalpur, although the rainfall was no better than in the other districts of the Division, there was an average outturn of ten annas, a result which is due to the system of storing all available water adopted in the great majority of the villages of the district. The condition of the winter rice crop was good in the protected areas of the Cuttack district. The yield of the *bhadoi* food-crops of the Division was estimated at 56 per cent., while winter rice yielded an outturn of 55 per cent. The outturn of *rabi* food-crops was returned at 66 per cent. of the normal. Orissa Division.

348. In the Chota Nagpur Division, the monsoon commenced seasonably, but the fall was unevenly distributed. There was excessive rain during the first part of the season, when agricultural operations were pushed on with great vigour. In July, the rainfall was generally seasonable. In August, however, it was again in great excess, and much damage was done to the *bhadoi* crops. The early cessation of the rains at the beginning of September led to an almost total failure of the rice crop on the high lands and to a greatly diminished outturn on the low lands. The area under *rabi* crops was also greatly contracted owing to the early cessation of the rains. *Bhadoi* food-crops gave an outturn of 59 per cent., winter rice 49 per cent. and *rabi* food-crops 49 per cent. of the normal. Chota Nagpur Division.

Horticulture.

[Annual Report of the Royal Botanic Garden, Calcutta, for the year 1907-1908.]

349. The survey of the garden which was started last year was almost completed, and a basis for an accurate catalogue of the plants of the garden laid down. From the large map there is being prepared a small scale map, which will serve both as an index map to the garden officials and will displace the present Garden-Guide map, no longer accurate, when the next edition of the Guide is issued. Proposals for the introduction of a filtered water-supply into the garden have been received and are under consideration. The dust nuisance occasioned by motor-cars has been reduced by treating the dustiest roads with crude petroleum oil. General.

350. As hitherto, plants of economic interest have been cultivated in the garden on behalf of the Reporter on Economic Products to the Government of India, and facilities have been afforded him for his investigations in connexion therewith. The garden has continued to keep in touch with other Botanical Gardens and Agricultural Departments, both within and outside of India, with mutual benefit. Economic.

351. Mr. W. W. Smith took charge of the Curatorship of the Herbarium on the 14th November 1907. During the year over 7,000 sheets were added to the herbarium. The chief contributions were over a 1,000 specimens of Tibetan plants from Captain F. H. Stewart, I.M.S.; over 1,600 specimens from Mr. I. H. Burkill, M.A., Reporter on Economic Products to the Government of India from Baluchistan, Eastern Himalaya and Burma; over 300 specimens of North-West Frontier plants from the late Sir H. A. Deane, K.C.S.I., Chief Commissioner, North-West Frontier Province; about the same number of plants of Southern India from Mr. C. E. C. Fischer, Deputy Conservator of Forests, Malabar; and over 500 Eastern Himalaya plants from the collectors attached to the Lloyd Botanical Garden, Darjeeling. In addition to Indian plants, extra Indian plants are represented by collections from the Philippine Islands; from Siam, sent by Mr. W. F. Lloyd, Conservator of Forests there; from Russia, Austria, Switzerland and Australia. The number of specimens Herbarium.

distributed for study by Botanists in various parts of Europe amounted to nearly a thousand.

Arboriculture. 352. During August and September practical instruction in the planting and care of trees was given by the Curator of the garden to District Overseers and Road Sarkars, who were sent to the Botanic Garden from the various districts in Bengal. It is hoped that, as time goes on, this course will undergo development.

Lloyd Botanic Garden. 353. Attention has been given during the year to the garden paths, many of which have been taken up and remodelled. The large plant-house was provided with a cement floor. A large number of plants have been supplied for planting the ground in and around the new Cantonment at Lebong, while conifers and other forest trees, bamboos, and shrubs have been supplied to public places and vacant spots in and around Darjeeling.

Calcutta Gardens. 354. Towards the end of 1907 the various gardens in and about Calcutta, comprising the Eden Garden, Dalhousie Square, Curzon Garden, Government House Garden at Barrackpore and Calcutta, and Hastings House were placed under the administration of the Superintendent of the Royal Botanic Garden and an Assistant Curator placed in executive charge.

Cinchona Plantation and Factory.

General. 355. The local rainfall was deficient. In Mangpu, the rainfall recorded was 96·46, and in Mansong 72·07 inches.

Extensions. 356. Cinchona extensions amounted to 110·63 acres, with 290,140 young trees. The two plantations have now been put on an independent footing, each being under separate supervision.

Outturn. 357. The output of Quinine Sulphate amounted to 27,564 lbs., which is an increase of 11,499 lbs., or 71·57 per cent. on the output of the previous year. This is the largest quantity yet turned out in one year. This is partly due to the new machinery, but principally to improved methods of working. The average yield of quinine from the bark used in the factory was 2·90 per cent. against 2·68 per cent. in the previous year. Better results are expected in future, as the whole of the accumulation of old and poor bark has been worked off and only bark now being produced or bought will be available. It is estimated that in the course of a few years, when bark from the selected trees will be coming in, a normal yield of 6 or 7 per cent. will be obtained. Only 3,370 lbs. of Cinchona Febrifuge were produced. The surplus on the year's working was about Rs. 53,000, or deducting non-recurring charges, slightly over Rs. 44,000.

Forests.

[The Annual Progress Report of Forest Administration in the Province of Bengal for the year 1907-1908.]

Alterations in area. 358. There was no change of importance in the area of the Reserved and Protected Forests in the Province; nor was there any important addition or alteration in the forest rules brought into effect during the year.

Forest Surveys and Working-plans. 359. The survey of the Sundarbans Reserved Forests by the Provincial Survey Department, which was commenced in the previous year, was completed during the year under review. Other local surveys were of trifling importance. The Working-plan for the Angul Reserved Forests, prepared by Mr. T. G. Pocock, late Divisional Forest Officer, was completed and approved by Government after the close of the year. The Working-plan for the Singalia Forest in the Darjeeling Division was prepared and completed. The revised plan for the Reserved Forests of the Tista Division was also sanctioned during the year. The only plan which will lapse within the next three years is that for the Sundarbans Forests, of which the revision is receiving full attention.

Communications, etc. 360. The most important work carried out was the construction of a complete net-work of cart-roads in the Singhbhum Division, where 41 miles of road were added. Much has undoubtedly been done to open out inaccessible areas and the provision of suitable housing for the establishment has received due attention.

361. The total number of recorded offences against the Forest Laws is considerably below the average of the last few years, but slightly in excess of the figures for 1906-1907. The excess is more than covered by the increase in the number of fire cases due to the unfavourable character of the season. Breaches of Forest Law.

362. The season was the most unfavourable which has been experienced in the last ten years. The early cessation of the rains in 1907 and the absence of spring showers rendered the work of fire-protection exceptionally difficult. As is nearly always the case in bad seasons, the Singhbhum Division suffered most. In a dry season it is impossible to avoid a large outbreak of fires. The arrangement made in recent years for joint action in respect of fire conservancy between the Forest Department and Rulers or Managers of neighbouring Native States have worked very well, at any rate so far as the Singhbhum and Angul Divisions are concerned. Protection from fire.

363. The proportion of Reserved Forests closed against grazing was slightly increased by the closure of certain areas in the Sambalpur Division. Practically the whole of the Protected Forests are open to grazing. Protection from cattle and against injuries from other causes.

The Palamau Division suffered severely from frost. Considerable damage was done in the Tista Division by wild elephants. Most of the transplants put down in that Division were as usual destroyed by these animals. Man-eating tigers in the Sundarbans forests were responsible for no less than 120 lives, and an indirect loss of revenue which the Conservator roughly estimates at Rs. 25,000.

364. From a commercial point of view the results of the year's working were again satisfactory. The net revenue was above the average of previous five years. All the divisions except Kurseong, Chaibassa, Sambalpur and Puri showed an increased revenue or an increased surplus, and no division except Chaibassa, which was created to secure better management of the Protected Forests in Singhbhum, was worked at a loss. Financial.

Manufactures and Mines.

365. The total area under jute in this province during 1907 was estimated at 931,200 acres and the outturn at 2,058,300 bales, as against 780,400 acres and 1,911,700 bales in the previous year. The figures included in the last year's report were those for both Bengals. Greater increase in the area cultivated would have taken place, but the very high prices of rice has acted as a check. Jute.

Forty-seven mills were at work at the close of the year, giving daily employment to an average of 183,507 persons. There has been a marked increase in the number of looms and spindles in operation, while the production has increased to a remarkable extent. The nominal capital employed was Rs. 5,83,05,000 and £ 2,893,358.

366. At the end of the year there were 12 cotton mills in this province containing 781 looms and 410,541 spindles, as against 13 mills with 568 looms and 441,469 spindles in the previous year. They employed a daily average of 11,591 persons. The nominal capital of the mills was Rs. 1,15,75,000 and £ 200,000. Owing to high prices of raw materials and the fluctuations in the Chinese market the profit in most cases was small. Cotton.

367. In the Darjeeling district 155plantations had a total area of 50,667 acres under tea, as against 50,243 acres for 154 gardens in the previous year. The outturn decreased from 15,795,536 lbs. in 1906 to 13,228,848 lbs. during the year under report. This was due to unfavourable weather and blights. Prices obtained were, however, better than those reported in the previous year. Tea.

The Chota Nagpur Division shows a slight decrease both in the area under cultivation and in the quantity of tea produced. These were respectively 2,316 acres and 274,596 lbs., as against 2,327 acres and 289,346 lbs. in 1906.

368. There were 372 mines working during the year, and the total outturn of coal was 9,993,348 tons, as compared with 8,617,820 tons in 1906. Of the total output, the Jharia and Burdwan coal-fields contributed over 1,000,000 tons and 200,000 tons respectively. The daily average number of Coal.

PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION.

people employed was 96,301. The coal industry was extremely active during the year, and, as the demand for coal continued, high prices were maintained.

Mica. 369. There was a decrease in the quantity of mica produced during the year. Its output in this province was 25,374 cwt., valued at nearly 25½ lakhs, as against 35,496 cwt. in 1906. The average number of men employed daily in the mines was over 10,000.

Iron ore. 370. The total amount of iron raised was 65,524 tons, and its value is estimated at Rs. 1,92,148. The Tata Iron and Steel Company, Limited, which was floated during the year, has secured a lease of 20 square miles of iron-ore lands in Orissa and has made arrangements for the erection of blast furnaces and steel rolling mills in the Singhbhum district. Hitherto iron melting on European lines has been done only by the Bengal Iron and Steel Company. Their production is, however, confined to pig-iron.

Manganese ore. 371. During the year 2,000 tons of Manganese ore, valued at Rs. 6,000, were produced.

Indigo. 372. The total area under the crop is estimated at 146,800 acres, as against 137,800 acres in the previous year. The increased cultivation is due to the popularity of the Java-Natal variety. Out of the total outturn of 29,913 maunds, the quantity produced in North Bihar alone was 24,279 maunds, valued at Rs. 37,91,175.

Saltpetre and Salt. 373. Saltpetre industry is mainly confined in Bengal. The quantity manufactured during the year was 359,168 tons, valued at Rs. 41,21,489 Twenty-six tons of salt, valued at Rs. 76, was also manufactured.

Sugar. 374. The manufacture of sugar continues to decline in the Presidency Division. Molasses are produced in all the districts of Bhagalpur. In the Patna Division sugar is manufactured more or less in all the districts. In Saran a refinery under European managership was opened at the end of the year. There was a decrease in the outturn of the refineries of the Bettiah subdivision in district Champaran. The Bara and Seeraha factories have nearly doubled their output, which amounts to about 53,480 maunds of sugar. The Ottur Factory produced 2,100 tons of sugar.

MISCELLANEOUS MANUFACTURE IN EACH DIVISION.

Presidency Division. 375. The two papers mills, one at Titaghur and the other at Kankinara continued to show good results. The value of the outturn was nearly double of that attained during the previous year. The oil-mill at Berhampore continued to work satisfactorily. The silk yarn and cloth industry received an impetus from the exertions of the Bengal Silk Committee.

Besides the above, other articles manufactured in the Presidency Division are locks, brushes, mats, dolls, fancy clay figures (at Krishnagar), brass and bell-metal utensils, earthenware, cutlery and articles made of horn.

A factory for making shoes and tanning leather has been started at Maheshganj in the district of Nadia.

Burdwan Division. 376. The Burdwan Division is noted for the number and variety of its manufactures. Among the other important industries may be mentioned the factories of the Bengal Iron and Steel Company, Messrs. Burn & Co.'s Iron and Pottery works, the paper mills at Raniganj, rope works at Howrah, the flour and oil mills in Burdwan and Howrah, the bone mills at Bally and the silk filatures in Birbhum. The output of the iron and pottery works decreased slightly on account of smaller demand. The paper mills did a thriving business. There was an increased demand for hand-made cloth of both coarse and fine texture.

Lac, brass and bell-metal utensils, cutlery for domestic and agricultural purposes, chemicals, mats, tobacco for *hukha* manufactured in the Bankura district, bricks and tiles are manufactured in the Division.

The manufacture of nibs and pen-handles has been started in Shaspur, but the business is not in a prosperous condition for want of funds. Attempts are also being made in the Midnapore district to turn out galvanized iron buckets and tin trunks.

Bhagalpur Division. 377. The principal articles of manufacture, besides tea, indigo, opium and sugar, are:—*tassar* and *batta* silks, coarse cotton cloth, lac, blankets and

mats. The manufacture of tobacco and cigarettes was carried on on a small scale by the Peninsular Tobacco Company in Monghyr. The oil-mill at Bhagalpur and the slate concerns in Monghyr worked successfully during the year.

Patna Division.

378. Among the articles of minor importance manufactured in the Division may be mentioned:—Cloth-weaving, brass and copper ware, blankets, bricks and pottery, gold and silver ornaments. Carpets are manufactured in Gaya, Shahabad and Muzaffarpur. The industry is reported to be gradually declining in Shahabad, while the carpet-weavers of Gaya are suffering for want of capital. *Kokti* cloth is manufactured in Darbhanga. The opening of the Dehri-Rohtas Light Railway is expected to develop the limestone quarries in Shahabad, which are at present worked on a small scale.

Chota Nagpur Division.

379. There was an excellent lac crop in the Division during the year. At the beginning of the year it had a large demand which, however, diminished towards the close of the year, causing a heavy fall in the prices. The number of factories for the manufacture of shellac were about 136 during the current year, as against 91 in 1906. *Tassar* cloth industry showed an improvement, the total outturn being 34,200 yards, as against 18,240 yards in the preceding year. Brass and bell-metal materials, coarse cotton cloths and blankets were manufactured in all the districts. An attempt is being made to introduce the fly-shuttle loom in Hazaribagh and Manbhum districts.

Soapstone is found in parts of Manbhum, Singhbhum and Ranchi districts. The value of stone articles manufactured in pargana Dhalbhum in Singhbhum was Rs. 16,500, as against Rs. 12,300 in the previous year.

Limestone is quarried in the Palamau and Singhbhum districts to a small extent.

Orissa Division.

380. As in previous years, the principal products of the Orissa Division are:—Gold and silver ornaments, *tassar* and cotton cloths, bell-metal utensils, implements of husbandry. The introduction of fly-shuttle looms has not made much progress. The Utkal Tannery tans leather and manufactures shoes. A hosiery and an oil-mill have been started in Cuttack and Sambalpur respectively.

Working of the Indian Factories Act.

[Annual Report on the working of the Indian Factories Act for 1907: Statistics of British India, Part I—Industrial.]

Number of Factories and system of work.

381. The number of factories at the close of the year 1907 was 204, as against 190 at the close of the year 1906. Sixteen new factories were brought under the operation of the Act during the year under report, viz., six in the 24-Parganas, four in Howrah, two in Burdwan and one in each of the districts of Cuttack, Muzaffarpur, Manbhum and Shahabad. Two of these factories started new industries, bobbins being made at Banjari in Shahabad and cigarettes in Calcutta by the East India Cigarette Manufacturing Company. Only two factories were closed during the year under review. Work was carried on in 93 factories by shifts or sets, in 97 with midday stoppages, in nine under a system of shifts and midday stoppages combined, and in four with other arrangements. The average daily number of operatives (men, women and children) employed was 293,490 as compared with 266,205 in the year 1906.

Inspections.

382. Inspections were made in 8 factories once, in 13 twice, in 71 thrice and in 109 more than thrice.

Sanitary arrangements and ventilation.

383. The sanitary arrangements of the factories continued to be satisfactory on the whole, but in individual cases there is still room for much improvement. The Commissioner of the Burdwan Division reports that the latrines of one mill were regularly flushed out into the river without any treatment. The latrines of several other mills were also defective.

The septic tank installations worked fairly well on the whole, but in some mills there was insufficient supervision, especially as regards the number of persons using the latrines. The Government accordingly issued definite orders during the year that turnstiles should invariably be used.

General efforts to improve ventilation during the hot weather by the erection of exhaust fans and punkhas in the spinning and other departments of large jute mills were a notable feature of the year's work.

Quarters for Operatives.

384. Most of the jute mills have provided well-built houses for their operatives. In Howrah where many of the mill hands live in *bustis*, the Municipality made steady progress in improving their sanitary condition, 276 bighas having been dealt with during the year under the *bustis* regulation. In the Presidency Division improvements were made in the provision of adequate coolie-lines with which most mills are now properly equipped.

Water-Supply.

385. The water-supply was adequate in all the mills; and particular care was taken to provide good drinking water for the operatives, Jewel filters being used in many cases where municipal water was unobtainable. In the Burdwan Division only one factory did not supply filtered water.

Vaccination of Operatives.

386. Vaccination was insisted on generally in all the factories; and no objection was raised to the visits of the vaccinators.

General health of the Operatives.

387. The general health of the operatives was good during the year. No disease of an epidemic nature broke out in any of the mills or factories.

Wages and general condition of Operatives.

388. There was no marked change in the rates during the year under report, and the general condition of the operatives continued to be prosperous.

Employment of women and children.

389. With a view to check the evils attendant on the personation of children, instructions were issued during the year under review to the effect that certifying Surgeons should take their thumb impressions and record their personal marks.

Accidents.

390. The total number of accidents during the year was 969 as against 962 in the previous year; of these 561 were of a slight and 358 of a serious nature, while 50 proved fatal. Most of the accidents were due to carelessness on the part of the operatives injured. On the whole, the machinery in factories was well fenced. The Special Inspector continued to urge on managers the necessity of fitting smal rollers on the calendar machines for the better prevention of accidents.

Prosecutions.

391. There was no prosecution during the year. There was a strike on the 30th September among the weavers of the Serampore Hastings Mill, but no disturbance took place. Of the 397 men, who went on strike, all, except 56, had resumed work by the 22nd October.

Trade.

FOREIGN SEA-BORNE TRADE.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1907-1908.]

Foreign Trade.

392. The trade of the Province in 1907-1908 is the highest on record. It represents an advance of 1·4 per cent. on the total of 1906-1907, the previous highest. Imports shew an increase of 25·2 per cent., but exports declined by 11·2 per cent.

The extent to which the foreign trade of the Province is centred in Calcutta will be apparent from the following figures (in thousands of rupees):—

Merchandise—

	Province.	Calcutta.
	Rs.	Rs.
Imports	52,59,01	52,59,01
Exports	70,06,26	69,92,86

393. All the treasure imported into, and exported from, the Province was received at or despatched from Calcutta.

394. The Orissa ports of Balasore, Cuttack, and Puri are now the only minor ports of the Province, Chittagong and Narayanganj having been transferred to the new Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The trade of these minor ports is separately dealt with in paragraph 424. The bulk of it consists

of rice for export. The trade discussed in the paragraphs 410 and 423 below represents that of Calcutta only :—

Imports of Merchandise.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1907-1908].

395. The value of the imported merchandise, 52·59 crores, was distributed as follows among the principal articles of the Import trade (in thousands of rupees) :— Principal articles imported.

	1906-1907.		1907-1908.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cotton piece-goods ...	17,01,13		21,67,02	
„ other fabrics ...	78,60	18,62,80	95,76	23,73,10
„ yarn ...	83,07		1,10,32	
Iron and steel ...	...	3,73,07	...	4,49,55
Sugar	...	3,34,79	...	3,78,04
Railway material ...	...	1,91,48	...	3,12,43
Machinery and millwork	...	2,27,72	...	2,65,95
Petroleum—				
Kerosene ...	71,23	1,00,30	94,92	1,37,10
Other sorts ...	29,07		42,18	
Hardware and cutlery ...	...	87,64	...	1,11,43
Spices	...	71,59	...	70,68
Woollen goods ...	...	44,71	...	69,15
Drugs and narcotics ...	...	55,62	...	67,92
Salt	...	52,82	...	62,80
Liquors	...	50,40	...	59,08
Apparel	...	42,84	...	55,82

396. The value of cotton goods which represent 45·12 of the total imports was higher by over 5 crores, or 27 per cent., than in 1906-1907, and constitutes a record, though the quantity was slightly less than in 1905-1906. The appreciation in value was 15·7 per cent. in the case of twist and yarn and 10·6 per cent. in the case of grey piece-goods. All descriptions share in the increase. Twist and yarn increased in quantity by 1½ million pounds, or 15 per cent., and in value by 27¼ lakhs, or 33 per cent., chiefly counts above 50, which may be a result of a revival in the handloom industry following the Swadeshi movement. The quantity of piece-goods increased by 170,248,183 yards, or 15 per cent., and the value was more by Rs. 4,65,89,000, or 27 per cent., the average price being 2 annas 7 pies per yard, against an average of 2 annas 4 pies in 1906-1907. The largest increase is under white goods (+126¼ millions of yards), chiefly nainsooks and scarves. Grey goods are more by 39¼, and coloured, printed or dyed by 4¾ millions of yards. British goods claimed the larger part of the increases under both twist and yarn and piece-goods, and Lancashire enjoyed another prosperous year; but at the close the condition of the local market was less satisfactory, demand having fallen off owing to anticipated famine and stocks having accumulated. Cotton goods.

397. The total quantity increased by 25,000 tons, or 9 per cent., and the total value by 120·13 lakhs, or 25·5 per cent., over the figures for 1906-1907, which were themselves a record. The heavy fall in the price of brass and copper resulted in large importations to replenish stocks which had been depleted while prices remained high. The value of iron imported increased by 22 per cent., chiefly in the form of galvanised sheets and ridging for building purposes, though almost all descriptions show an advance. Imports of steel, lead and tin also increased in value, but there was a falling off in the imports of zinc. Metals and Manufactures.

398. The quantity imported (excluding confectionery) was 5,123,809 cwts., against 4,857,548 cwts in 1906-1907, an increase of 5·5 per cent., while the value increased by 13 per cent. There was a remarkable decrease in the imports of refined sugar from Europe, Java and Mauritius supplying the deficiency. Cane-sugar is at present more popular than beet and Java, having a large surplus available for export owing to a favourable season and less demand from the United States, almost monopolised the market. The Sugar.

average price was Rs. 6-0-6 per maund, but at the close of the year there was a sharp advance to Rs. 7-8 per maund owing to scarcity of supply.

Railway Materials.

399. The total imports on account of the State and Private Companies rose by Rs. 1,01·17 lakhs of rupees, or 31·6 per cent. The increase was chiefly in locomotives and rolling-stock. 99 per cent. came from the United Kingdom.

Machinery and Millwork.

400. The total imports increased by 17 per cent. to 265·95 lakhs of rupees. There was a good demand for steam-engines for millwork, mining, pumping, etc., and a large increase in the imports of jute mill, mining and navigation machinery.

Mineral Oil.

401. Russia renewed her exports of kerosene which ceased in 1906-1907, and the name of Roumania appears for the first time on account of considerations of freight. Imports from the United States increased by 9·9 per cent. in quantity, and from Borneo by 374 per cent. Altogether 4,697,224 gallons in case, and 23,958,762 gallons in bulk, were received. Coastwise 31,211,901 gallons of Burma oil were imported a decrease of 12 per cent. in quantity. Prices rose slightly at the beginning of the year, but remained steady afterwards. The increase in the imports from Borneo is due to the low prices quoted for the inferior grades shipped.

Hardware and Cutlery.

402. Imports under this head were 27 per cent. higher. A considerable quantity of cheap cutlery, lampware and enamelled ware was imported from the Continent. There were a few consignments of cigarette-making machines for the local manufacture of cigarettes.

Spices.

403. The total value of the imports was 70·68 lakhs of rupees, a decrease of 1·2 per cent., owing to smaller shipments of betelnuts from Ceylon, Hongkong and the Straits Settlements, prices having fallen from Rs. 10-1-1 in 1906-1907 to Rs. 4-8 per cwt. Imports of pepper increased by no less than 302 per cent. in quantity to 2,178,960 lbs.

Woollen goods.

404. The high price of wool in 1906-1907 restricted imports, with the result that stocks were small at the beginning of the year under review. This depletion of stocks coupled with the fall in the price of wool stimulated trade in spite of famine, and most items show considerable increases both in quantity and value. The total value of the imports was 69 lakhs, against Rs. 44·7 lakhs in the previous year, an increase of 55 per cent. Shawls were two and-a-half times more in number and more than 3 times as much in value, Germany accounting for 95 per cent. of the whole trade; her manufacturers, owing to a careful study of native requirements, now almost monopolise the market in this article. Hosiery increased from 45,358 lbs. to 70,306 lbs., or 55 per cent., almost entirely from the United Kingdom. Piece-goods and carpets and rugs show increases of 26 and 35 per cent. respectively; manufacturers in the United Kingdom are beginning to imitate native patterns in carpets with considerable success. The progress of the knitting industry is evidenced by the large imports of knitting wool which almost reached the abnormal figures of 1906-1907.

Drugs and narcotics.

405. The trade amounted to nearly 68 lakhs, of rupees an increase of 22 per cent. Imports of quinine were better by 109,685 lbs., but the average value was less. The trade in camphor amounted to 5·48 lakhs, an increase of 80 per cent. due to the increased output of Formosa. So far as known, no synthetic camphor was imported. Imports of caustic soda increased to over 6 lakhs owing to the growing demands of match, soap and paper industries.

Tobacco.

406. The value of tobacco imported was over 36 lakhs; nearly 613 millions of cigarettes, valued at 27·35 lakhs, were imported, rather more than half of which came from the United Kingdom and nearly 8 lakhs worth from the United States. Several native companies also manufacture cigarettes chiefly from imported leaf. The habit of cigarette-smoking is extending among all classes.

Salt.

407. Imports of foreign salt rose from 387,907 to 456,414 tons. Increased quantities came from Salif (a Red Sea port), Hamburg and Spain, but less from the United Kingdom owing to accumulation of stocks and high prices. Spanish salt owes its popularity to its lightness and consequent facility of transport. After the declaration of the budget prices rose steadily, and were further forced up by a shortage of railway waggons. From August onwards the demand decreased and prices fell, the year closing with a quiet market. The wholesale average price of Liverpool salt per 100 maunds was Rs. 54-7-4

as against Rs. 48-10-2 in 1906-1907. During the year the rates for the conveyance of salt on State Railways were reduced.

Liquors.

408. The volume of trade increased from 1,468,655 gallons to 1,705,156 gallons, an increase of 16 per cent., and the value was also higher by 17 per cent. at Rs. 59 lakhs, against 50 lakhs in 1906-1907. Almost all items share in the increase; two noticeable features are the increasing trade in German white spirit for the manufacture of factitious brandy and whisky, and the large imports of methylated spirits from Java.

Apparel.

409. There was a marked increase in imports, amounting to nearly 13 lakhs of rupees, or 30·2 per cent. over the figures for 1906-1907, which were abnormally low owing to boycott and other causes. The increase of 5 lakhs under haberdashery and millinery and hats and bonnets is due to enhanced price rather than to any great increase in quantity. The value of boots and shoes was higher by nearly 3 lakhs; the average price per pair was Rs. 2-13-7, against an average price of Rs. 2-8 in 1906-1907. There is reported to be a considerable demand for second-hand clothing from tea-gardens and Nepal.

Import trade of Calcutta with other countries.

410. The share of the United Kingdom in the import trade rose from 74·53 to 74·64 per cent. in value, the improvement being mainly due to increases under the heads of Cotton goods and Railway plant, but the percentage of the United Kingdom and British Possessions taken together fell from 80 to 79·62. Germany's share of the trade fell from 4·8 to 3·35 owing to a decrease in the imports of sugar, the deficiency in which was made up by Java, whose percentage in consequence rose from 4·36 to 6·33.

Exports of Merchandise.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1907-1908.]

Principal articles exported.

411. The value of the export trade of he Province fell from about 78·9 to 70·06 crores, or 11 per cent. It was distributed as follows among the principal articles of trade (in thousands of rupees):—

	1906-1907.		1907-1908.	
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Jute raw ...	24,12,50	39,77,86	15,70,84	33,92,55
„ manufactured ...	15,65,36		18,21,71	
Tea ...	...	7,36,97	...	7,67,04
Opium ...	...	7,40,31	...	6,38,86
Hides and skins ...	...	8,12,49	...	5,56,49
Lac ...	...	3,45,92	...	3,98,22
Oil-seeds ...	...	2,24,42	...	3,95,61
Grain and pulse ...	...	3,12,53	...	2,40,90
Cotton, raw ...	...	1,50,02	...	88,33
Coal and coke ...	...	73,89	...	58,92
Silk, raw ...	...	55,16	...	46,95
Indigo ...	...	45,07	...	38,62

Jute and jute goods.

412. The value of jute and jute manufactures fell nearly by 6 crores, or 15 per cent. below the record of 1906-1907, though the figures are still much above the average of previous years. The decrease of 1,482,867 cwts. in quantity (10·5 per cent.) and Rs. 8,41,66,000 in value (35 per cent.) in the exports of raw jute is due to the increasing demands of mills in India, whose consumption is estimated to have been fifteen million cwts., an increase of two and three quarters millions over the estimated figures of the previous year. As a result of the activity of the mills, exports of both gunny-bags and gunny-cloth increased by 13 per cent. each in quantity and 15 and 17 per cent. respectively in value. The average value of the raw article was Rs. 12-7-5, against Rs. 17-1-11 per cwt. in 1906-1907. The United Kingdom and Germany were as usual the principal consumers, and both took less quantities.

As regards jute manufactures, the most remarkable feature of the year was the demand for both gunny-bags and gunny-cloth from South America, due in the main to the abundant harvest in the Argentine Republic. Exports to the United States were better by 76·9 lakhs and to Cochin China by 21·9 lakhs. Germany, Java and "other countries" also took increased quantities, but imports into the United Kingdom and Hong-Kong fell

considerably. Australia maintained her position as an extensive side buyer of gunny-bags and also took more gunny-cloth. Though there was something of a slump in prices in July, on the whole the local mills enjoyed a prosperous year and increased the number of looms by 7·5 per cent. and of spindles by 7·9 per cent.

Tea. 413. 167,783,368 lbs. of tea, valued at 767·04 lakhs of rupees, were shipped from Calcutta, a decrease of 4·6 per cent. in quantity, but an increase of 4 per cent. in value. The average value declared was 7 annas 3 pies per lb., against 6 annas 8 pies in the previous year and the average price of tea sold in Calcutta was 1 anna 4 pies higher than in 1906. The year was therefore prosperous for the tea trade, the only disquieting feature being the temporary inflation of values for lower grades of leaf. The United Kingdom took nearly 7 million lbs. less than in 1906, the decrease being due in part to the competition of cheap China teas. Direct shipments to Russia advanced by nearly two million pounds, and a considerable proportion of the increased exports to Ceylon and China found their way to that country *viâ* Vladivostock, a rebate (since abolished) being allowed on importations by that route. There was a fall of 9 million lbs. in the exports to Canada, but Australasia is an improving market for Indian teas.

Opium. 414. Exports were 47,440 chests, valued at 6,38,86 lakhs of rupees, a decrease of 11 per cent. in quantity and 14 per cent. in value, due partly to a reduction in the number of chests of Bengal opium offered for sale in accordance with recent orders, partly to the recovery in the export trade of Malwa opium from Bombay, the shortage of which in the year preceding inflated Calcutta exports. Hong-Kong took 6,176 fewer chests and shipments to Siam and Treaty ports in China were also smaller, but the Straits, Java and Cochin China increased their imports.

Hides and skins. 415. The trade in hides and skins has not maintained the exceptional position of the two previous years, though prices remained comparatively high The quantity in cwts. decreased by 34 per cent. and the value by 31 per cent. As usual Germany and the United States were the principal buyers, the former of raw hides and the latter of raw skins. Almost all countries share in the decreases, the United Kingdom and the United States most markedly. Slackening trade in Germany owing to less demand for leather from Russia and the financial crisis in America were the chief causes of the depression in the trade.

Lac. 416. Exports of lac increased in quantity by 88,615 cwts. and in value by Rs. 52·29 lakhs. The average declared value was Rs. 112-13-7, against Rs. 130-14-6 per cwt. in 1906-1907. There was less demand in the United States for shellac, but the United Kingdom and other European countries increased their imports considerably.

Oil-seeds. 417. The quantity exported advanced by 68 per cent. and the value by 76 per cent. Out of 3,95·61 lakhs worth, linseed accounted for 298·04 lakhs, an increase of 60 per cent. The price in the London market varied from 40*s.* to 47*s.* 6*d.* There was an even more marked recovery in the exports of rape and poppy seed, the season in comparison with 1906-1907 being generally favourable.

Grain and Pulse. 418. As in 1906-1907, foreign exports show a considerable fall, owing to the unfavourable character of the season over a large portion of India and the unseasonable and ill-distributed rainfall in Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam, which adversely affected the rice crop, particularly in the former province. The total quantity exported decreased by 1,381,380 cwts., or 30 per cent., and the value by 71·63 lakhs, or 23 per cent. The average export price of rice rose from Rs. 6-15-10 per cwt. in 1906-1907 to Rs. 7-14-3 in 1907-1908.

Cotton, raw. 419. Exports of raw cotton fell in quantity by 38 per cent. to 353,815 cwts. and in value by 41 per cent. to 88·33 lakhs. All the principal importing countries (except Austria-Hungary) took less quantities, Belgium and Germany accounting for most of the decrease.

Coal. 420. The outturn of coal in India in 1907 was 11,147,339 tons, to which the Bengal coal-fields contributed 9,993,348 tons, or 90 per cent. Foreign exports fell by 22 per cent. to 722,451 tons, valued at 58·32 lakhs; the decrease is due partly to the competition of Japanese and Australian coal in Singapore

and the Far East, partly to the increasing demands of Indian industries which leave less quantities available for export abroad. There was a small decrease in the quantity exported to Ceylon, and the Strait Settlements took 32 per cent. less than in 1906-1907. No coal went to China, but Sumatra's imports increased by 44 per cent. Shipments of bunker coal for use in steamers continue to increase, the quantity being 1,003,821 tons, against 896,488 tons, a rise of 12 per cent. The average price of first class Jherria Bengal coal loaded in waggons was Rs. 6 per ton, against Rs. 4-5-5 in 1906-1907.

Silk, raw.

421. Exports fell 5 per cent. in quantity and 15 per cent. in value, the average price per pound being Rs. 3-12-2, against Rs. 4-3-4 in 1906-1907. France, as usual, was the best customer.

Indigo.

422. In spite of the success which has attended the introduction of the Java-Natal variety, exports declined from 19,309 cwts., valued at 45·07 lakhs to 16,627 cwts., valued Rs. 38·62 lakhs. Rather more than one-third of the total went to the United Kingdom. Owing to the efforts of German manufacturers to introduce synthetic indigo in Egypt, there was a considerable fall in the exports to that country.

Export trade of Calcutta with other countries.

423. Of the total exports from Calcutta, 25·51 per cent. went to the United Kingdom, 16·64 per cent. to United States, 12· per cent. to Germany and 7·45 per cent. to China. South America's share increased from 3·05 to 4·85 per cent. owing to large exports of jute manufactures. There was a fall of 9·4 per cent. in the proportion taken by the United Kingdom and British Possessions and a corresponding rise in the proportion taken by Foreign countries.

Subordinate Ports.

424. The foreign trade of the three ports Cuttack, Puri and Balasore, which consists chiefly of exports of rice, fell from 42·38 to 13·35 lakhs owing to the failure of crops in Orissa.

Frontier Trade.

[Report on the trade of Bengal with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim, and Bhutan for 1907-1908.]

Value of Trade.

425. The total value of the trade with Nepal, Tibet, Sikkim, and Bhutan amounted to 366 lakhs in the year under review, against 302·04 lakhs in the previous year, an increase of 21 per cent.

Nepal.

426. The trade of Nepal, the bulk of which consists of food-grains, represented 88·4 per cent. of the total. Imports from Nepal rose from Rs. 1,87,12,283 to Rs. 2,29,26,671, or 22 per cent. There was a large increase of 592,267 maunds in the imports of rice, husked and unhusked, into Bengal, and the specific value was higher by 11·8 per cent. In the jute trade there was a marked increase of 55·1 per cent. in quantity and 13·1 per cent. in value. Imports of hides and skins and oilseeds advanced, but there was a fall in the number of animals sent across the frontier. Exports to Nepal increased by Rs. 12,91,418, or 16 per cent. Cotton goods represented about 33 per cent. of the total. Exports of brass and copper increased by over Rs. 5 lakhs, but other metals decreased by an equal amount. The trade in salt, spices, sugar and tobacco shows a satisfactory expansion.

Tibet.

427. The trade, which represents 7 per cent. of the total frontier trade, amounted to 25·54 lakhs of rupees, an increase of 21 per cent. over the figures of the previous year. Imports from Tibet were 11·87 lakhs, 70 per cent. of which consisted of wool. Manufactured piece-goods, yaks' tails and musk are the only other articles of trade of any importance. Exports from Bengal increased to 11·87 lakhs. Indian twist and yarn and piece-goods, silk manufactures and woollen piece-goods were in brisk demand, and there was a considerable trade in corals and precious stones.

Sikkim.

428. The value of the trade oft he year was 16·21 lakhs, or 4·5 per cent. of the total frontier trade. Both imports and exports increased, the former by 1·45 lakhs and the latter by 2·72 lakhs. Pastoral products, yarn and piece-goods are the principal articles of merchandise.

Coasting Trade.

[Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for 1907-1908.]

Coasting trade.

429. For the fifth year in succession there has been a marked advance in the coasting trade, the total trade being 21,85·46 lakhs of rupees an increase of

3,50·92 lakhs. Imports rose by 260·04 lakhs and exports by 90·88 lakhs. The improvement was chiefly in Indian merchandise, fluctuations in foreign merchandise being unimportant. 98 per cent. of the value of the trade appertains to Calcutta divided as follows (in thousands of rupees):—

		1906-1907	1907-1908.
		Rs.	Rs.
Exports ...	Merchandise	9,15,11	11,76,43
	Treasure	21,36	21,71
Imports ...	Merchandise	7,86,20	8,52,20
	Treasure	51,98	88,89
	Total ...	17,74,65	21,39,23

As regards imports, the most noticeable features of the year were the large shipments of paddy and rice from Burma, and cotton manufactures from Bombay. Increases are shown in the imports of wheat and tobacco from Sind, groundnuts from Madras, teakwood from Burma, and salt from Bombay, while less castor-seed, sugar and cotton manufactures arrived from Madras and less lac (stick) from Burma.

As regards exports, coal was slightly less in quantity, but the value was higher. Exports of jute manufactures, provisions, tea and tobacco advanced, but decreases are shown under the heads of rice, hides and skins, kerosene oil and betelnuts.

Railway and River Trade.

[Report on the trade carried by Rail and River in Bengal in 1907-1908. Tables I and II.]

Imports and Exports.

430. The main divisions of this trade and its estimated value are exhibited in the following table:—

Year.		Exports from Bengal (including Calcutta) to other provinces.	Imports into Bengal (including Calcutta) from other provinces.	Exports from Calcutta to the rest of Bengal.	Imports into Calcutta from the rest of Bengal.
1906-1907	Maunds...	73,345,777	64,205,254	27,354,103	195,965,224
	Rupees ...	35,56,89,593	54,39,44,185	24,25,53,274	41,10,60,290
1907-1908	Maunds...	94,175,897	66,109,582	29,318,936	185,668,474
	Rupees ...	42,70,90,232	51,35,68,118	26,48,95,035	37,23,79,830

Of the total value of the imports into Bengal including Calcutta (51 crores), 53 per cent. represent the trade from Eastern Bengal and Assam, 29 per cent. from the United Provinces, 6 per cent. from the Central Provinces and Berar, 4 per cent. from the Panjab, and the balance 8 per cent. from other Provinces. Of the total exports (42 crores), 44 per cent. went to Eastern Bengal and Assam, 35 per cent. to the United Provinces, 8 per cent. to the Panjab, 4 per cent. to the Central Provinces and Berar, and the remainder 9 per cent. to other Provinces.

The principal articles of import into Bengal including Calcutta were from Eastern Bengal and Assam, raw jute (16 crores), tea (6 crores), and rice (1 crore); from the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh opium (2·8 crores), oil-seeds (2·2 crores), lac (2 crores), hides and skins (1 crore), and gram and pulse (1 crore); from the Central Provinces and Berar wheat (85 lakhs), cotton raw (43 lakhs), gram and pulse (22 lakhs), and oil-seeds (16 lakhs); and from the Panjab wheat (53 lakhs), hides and skins (22 lakhs) and raw cotton (8 lakhs).

The exports from Bengal including Calcutta to Eastern Bengal and Assam comprise mainly cotton manufactures (6·4 crores), metals and manufactures

of metals (2·8 crores), rice husked and unhusked (1·9 crores), oils (1·6 crores), sugar (1·4 crores), spices (71 lakhs), and salt (48 lakhs); to the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh cotton manufactures (4 crores), rice husked and unhusked (2·6 crores), sugar (1·4 crores), lac (1·2 crores), metals and manufactures of metals (1·1 crores), railway plant and rolling-stock (84 lakhs), and coal and coke (72 lakhs); to the Panjab cotton manufactures (87 lakhs), gunny-bags and cloth (Rs. 85 lakhs), coal and coke (27 lakhs), and rice (27 lakhs); while exports to the Central Provinces and Berar consist principally of railway plant and rolling-stock (24 lakhs), sugar (20 lakhs), iron and steel (19 lakhs), coal and coke (18 lakhs), gunny-bags and cloth (18 lakhs), and rice (17 lakhs).

Buildings.

[The details of outlay by the Public Works Department will be found in the Finance accounts issued annually by the Examiner of Public Works Accounts, Bengal.]

431. Rupees 1,44,60,255 was spent on works during the year. The expenditure on Imperial and Provincial Works amounted to Rs. 21,14,149 and Rs. 72,53,932, respectively. Rupees 4,17,486 was spent on Local and Contribution Works. The balance, Rs. 46,74.688, was expended by the Local authorities. **Total Expenditure.**

I.—IMPERIAL WORKS.

432. An additional room was constructed in the Proof Officer's quarters at Balasore for the accommodation of his office. **Military.**

433. Additional golas were constructed in the Salt Golas, Sulkea, at a cost of Rs. 1,47,006, together with the necessary sidings, and two extra pontoons were provided at a cost of Rs. 38,345. **Civil Works. Salt.**

434. The new cake godown in the Opium Factory, Gulzarbagh, was completed. Thorough repairs were carried out to the house which was acquired for a recreation room for the assistants of the factory. A residence was under construction for the Sub-Deputy Opium Agent of Tehta at Gaya. **Opium.**

For working the machines in His Majesty's Mint, Calcutta, an electric power house with a chimney 150 feet high, containing all the latest improvements, was constructed at an estimated cost of Rs. 1,23,416. New quarters for six mint engineers were also constructed. **Mint.**

435. The new combined Post and Telegraph offices at Narail and Jherria, and the extension of the Post and Telegraph office at Puri, were completed. Additions and alterations were made to the Post and Telegraph office at Midnapore. The Arrah Post-office was extended, and improvements made in the Darjeeling Post-office. A new Post and Telegraph office was under construction at Basirhat. The Export and Import sheds opposite the jetty in the Telegraph Storeyard, Dullunda, were completed at a cost of Rs. 14,375. Sanitary improvements were carried out in the Telegraph-office at Calcutta. **Post and Telegraph offices.**

436. The following buildings for the staff of His Excellency the Viceroy at Calcutta were completed:— **Viceregal buildings.**

(1) Residence No. 1 for the Surgeon at the junction of Fancy Lane and Wellesley Place.

(2) Residence No. 2 for the Private Secretary and Press buildings at the junction of Larkins Lane and Wellesley Place.

(3) Residence No. 3 for the Military Secretary at the south end of Wellesley Place on its west side.

(4) Staff stables with quarters for the Assistant Surgeon in the upper floor of the front block, between residences Nos. 1 and 3.

437. Several improvements in the Exchange Hall of the Paper Currency office, Calcutta, were in progress. **Currency Office.**

438. The extension of the Imperial Museum building, Calcutta, was built up to plinth level. **Museum.**

439. Good progress was made with the buildings and works of the Agricultural Research Institute and College, Pusa. Phipp's Laboratory **Agriculture.**

was completed. The laboratory has been equipped with all up-to-date internal fittings for Chemical, Bacteriological, Botanical, Physical, and Entomological work, and gas, water, and electric connections have been laid in the several sections. An electric power station with generating machinery and a coal gas installation were in course of erection.

Mines.

440. At Dhanbaid the quarters of the Inspector of Mines was completed; the quarters of the Chief Inspector of Mines in India was in progress; and the office of the Mines Department was started. The quarters and office of the Inspector of Mines at Sitarampur was completed.

Residency buildings.

441. The Residency buildings at Khatmandu were taken over on the books of this department.

II.—PROVINCIAL WORKS.

Commissioners' offices.

442. Additions and alterations were carried out in the Commissioner's office at Cuttack. The record and library rooms of the Commissioner's Court at Bhagalpur were converted into office rooms.

Magistrate-Collector's Courts.

443. The work of additions and alterations to the Magistrate's Court, Howrah, was nearly completed. The new court-house for five Deputy Magistrates at the same place was well in hand. Improvements were made in the Deputy Commissioner's Court, Hazaribagh. Additions were made to the court-house of the Magistrate-Collector, Cuttack, to provide better accommodation for the office. Alterations were made in the Magistrate's record-room, Puri, and in the revenue record-room of the Deputy Commissioner, Ranchi, and improvements to the Magistrate's record-room at Krishnagar were in progress. A Settlement office was constructed at Balasore. Sheds for the accommodation of witnesses were erected in the compounds of the Magistrate-Collector's Courts at Cuttack and Bankura, and a shed was in progress in the Criminal Court compound at Monghyr.

Judges' Courts.

444. Sessions Courts were under construction at Monghyr and Puri. New Judges' Courts were commenced at Darbhanga and Arrah. Additions and alterations at an estimated cost of Rs. 31,922 were started in the Judge's Court, Krishnagar. The Judge's Court-room at Bhagalpur was extended. A copyists' room for the Judge's Court, Chapra, was in progress. Additions and alterations were carried out in the record-room of the Judge's Court, Burdwan. Record racks were under construction in the record-rooms of the Judge's Courts at Berhampore and Midnapore. Two iron record-racks were erected in the record-room of the Judge's Court, Bankipore. A witness-shed and sale-room, with two rooms for keeping registers and forms and one room for Small Cause Court records, was erected in the compound of the Civil Court at Monghyr, and a shed for witnesses and litigants was erected in the compound of the Judge's Court, Bankipore.

Munsifs' Courts.

445. Improvements were carried out to "Masseyk's house," Jangipur, which was purchased for Munsifs' Courts and residences. Accommodation for a second Munsif was provided at Sitamarhi by constructing an additional wing to the existing munsifi. Additions were in progress in the Munsifs' Courts at Bongong and Chatra and the treble munsifi at Tamluk. A double munsifi at Samastipur was nearly completed. Materials were collected for constructing a treble munsifi, at an estimated cost of Rs. 43,194 at Kushtia, double munsifis at Darbhanga and Madhubani, and a single munsifi at Siwan. A witness-shed was erected in the compound of the Baruipur munsifi.

Munsifs' residences.

The third Munsif's residence at Satkhira and the Munsif's residence at Arambagh were completed. Two sets of residences at Barasat were under construction. Residences were started at Bolpur, Khatra, and Ghatal. Materials were collected for constructing two sets of residences, at an estimated cost of Rs. 13,078, at Tamluk, and for one set at Araria and Banka.

Subdivisional Courts.

446. Additions and alterations were carried out in the Subdivisional Courts at Ulubaria, Bihar, and Kendrapara, and were in progress in the Subdivisional Courts at Banka, Deoghur, Diamond Harbour, Katwa, Hajipur and Khurda. A new court-house was erected for the second officer at Jamtara and a new subdivisional court-house at Sassaram was commenced. The extension of the Subdivisional Court, Siwan, was in hand. Accommodation was provided at Khurda for the Sub-Deputy Collector's and Bench Magis-

trate's Court. A combined office for the Sub-Deputy Collector, Sub-Registrar and Bench Magistrates at Gumla, was under construction.

Subdivisional residences.

447. Subdivisional residences were constructed at Khunti, Dhanbaid, and Madhubani. The work of re-constructing the Subdivisional residence at Phulbani was well advanced. Additions and alterations were made in the Subdivisional residence at Pakour and in the Deputy Magistrate's residence at Siliguri.

Circuit-houses.

448. It has been decided to use the lower floor of Mr. Donnithone's house No. 34, Strand Road, Howrah, which was acquired at a cost of Rs. 51,538, for a circuit-house. A new circuit-house at Hazaribagh was started. Additions and alterations were made to the circuit-houses at Ranchi and Chaibassa.

Excise.

449. Combined *ganja* golas and liquor depôts were constructed at Burdwan, Asansol, Tamluk, Balasore and Sambalpur, and liquor depôts at Raipur (Bankura) and Cuttack. A new *ganja* gola and liquor depôt at Puri and the extension of the liquor and *ganja* godown, Siliguri, were nearly completed.

Residences for the Local Government.

450. The new ball-room at "Belvedere," including certain additions and alterations to the existing east block, was completed. At "Chajjubagh" additional quarters were built for His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor's staff, and other necessary additions and improvements carried out.

Secretariat offices.

451. Electric ceiling fans were provided in Blocks Nos. 2 and 3, Writers' Buildings, at an estimated cost of Rs. 12,695 and Rs. 8,403, respectively. Two new lavatories were fitted up in the main building for the use of officers.

High Court.

452. The new extension to the High Court, Calcutta, was nearly completed.

Jails.

453. Considerable progress was made with the new Presidency Jail buildings at Alipore. Additions and alterations to the Bankipore Jail were in progress. In connection with the scheme for the improvement of the Midnapore Central Jail, two blocks were completed and materials collected for the remaining four blocks. The extension of the Cuttack Jail by the incorporation of the abandoned lunatic asylum was in progress. The enclosure walls of the Balasore and Khulna Jails were extended. The new hospital in the Monghyr Jail was completed, and a new hospital in the Purnea Jail was commenced. A segregation ward was constructed in the Burdwan Jail, and an additional segregation ward in the Darjeeling Jail. A leper ward in the Muzaffarpur Jail was nearly completed. Under-trial wards were built and under construction in the Darjeeling Jail and Hazaribagh Central Jail, respectively. Sanitary paripan painting was carried out to the walls of the Arrah Jail.

Sub-Jails.

454. New Sub-Jails were constructed at Khunti and Sitamarhi. The new Sub-Jail at Tamluk, estimated to cost Rs. 27,686, was nearly completed. Improvements were carried out in the Asansol and Dhanbaid Sub-Jails. Additions and alterations to the Sub-Jail at Phulbani were in progress.

Police.

455. The buildings for the Police Training College at Dorunda (Ranchi) were practically completed. The temporary barracks of the Constables' Training School at Nathnagar (Bhagalpur) underwent thorough repairs. Additions and alterations were made in the north-west barracks, front and rear range, at Berhampore for the Constables' Training School. Barracks were constructed in the Tollygunge thana, Bankipore Reserve Lines, Samastipur police-station, and for the police in charge of the plague camp at Siliguri. Additions and alterations to the barrack in the police-station, Phlubani, were in progress. Outposts were built or in progress at Amtolah, Bantra, Chetla, Markandsahi, Bandaghat, and Batiatola. The work of additions and alterations to the outpost at Krishnagar was completed. Quarters were under construction for the European inspector and sergeant of the Armed Police at Jessore and Angul and for the European inspector of the Reserve Police Lines, Motihari.

Educational.

456. In connection with the scheme for the improvement of the Patna College, the Minto Hindu Hostel, with quarters for the Superintendent, was constructed; the hostel for the Muhammadan students, with quarters for the Superintendent, was nearly completed; and materials were collected for the construction of new quarters for the Principal and a European Professor. Hostels were constructed for the Hindu students of the Ravenshaw College, Cuttack, and for the Hindu and Muhammadan students of the Chapra Zilla School.

Additions and alterations were made in the Eden Hindu Hostel, Calcutta. Materials were collected for the erection of hostels for the Midnapore College and Puri Zilla School. A temporary shed was erected in the Presidency College for the Physical Laboratory, and electric lights and fans installed at a cost of Rs. 9,608. Additions and alterations to the Science Laboratory of the Krishnagar College were in progress. The construction of a chapel was commenced for the Dow Hill Girls' School and Victoria Boys' School, Kurseong. Improvements were made in the Patna Training School. A new Zilla School at Chaibassa was taken in hand. The Vernacular School at Dehri was reconstructed, and a *Guru* Training School at Bagdogra was nearly completed.

Medical.

457. At the Medical College Hospital, Calcutta, the new Surgical block, Isolation ward, Anatomical Museum and the electric lift in the main building were in progress. Land was acquired for three Paying Patients' wards for Indians, and the construction of two of the wards was started. Some materials were collected for the construction of a "fourth block," which is intended for the Principal's Office, College Library, Theatre, etc. Electric fans were installed in the Native Patients' ward of the hospital at a cost of Rs. 8,942. The Paying Patients' block in the Presidency General Hospital was nearly completed. Two double-storeyed barracks at the Campbell Hospital, Sealdah, were in progress and the plots of land known as "Haritola Busti" were acquired for the improvement and extension of the hospital. At the Temple Medical School, Bankipore, the additional barracks for students, including the one for hill students, the Pathological Museum and the reconstruction of the roof of the barracks occupied by the Nagpur students, which was accidentally burnt down, were completed. Several improvements were carried out in the Central Lunatic Asylum, Berhampore. The main building of the Dhanbaid Dispensary was nearly completed and the Assistant Surgeon's quarters were started.

Cemeteries.

458. New cemeteries were constructed at Singtam, Darjeeling, and at Moharampore, Bankipore. The cemetery at Dehri was brought on the books of this Department and repaired.

Registration.

459. The Registration office at Cuttack was completed. New offices were under construction at Howrah and Puri. Additions and alterations were made in the offices at Purnea, Krishnagar, Midnapore and Arrah.

Contribution Works.

460. At the Victoria Zenana Hospital in Amherst Street, Calcutta, three Cottage wards were built and formally opened by Her Excellency Lady Minto, and a Maternity ward and Nurses' quarters were under construction. The improvements, including sanitary fittings, to the General Hospital, Howrah, were completed, with the exception of the Debi Prosad ward and the Nurses' quarters. The Nurses' quarters will be constructed over the Debi Prosad ward, which was well advanced. Considerable extensions and improvements were carried out in the Sagore Dutt Hospital at Kamarhatti. The new hospital and dispensary buildings at Kurseong were finished. Improvements were made in the operating room of the Charitable Dispensary, Darjeeling, and an upper storey over the existing staff quarters of the dispensary was nearly completed. Land was acquired for the extension of the Senate House of the Calcutta University.

Residences for Government officials.

461. Residences were constructed for the District Judge of Darbhanga at Laheria Serai, the Collector at Monghyr, the Civil Surgeon at Daltonganj, and the Superintendent of Police at Puri. A house belonging to the Darbhanga Raj was taken on a repairing lease for 25 years at a rent of Rs. 80 per mensem for the Judge of Muzaffarpur. The building known as "Hill Side" in the fort was acquired for the residence of the Civil Surgeon, Monghyr. "Campbell Cottage" at Darjeeling was purchased for Rs. 50,000, with the view of utilizing the house as a residence for the Superintendent of Police and constructing another residence in the compound for the Civil Surgeon. "Aradang House" at Bankura was acquired for the residence of the Superintendent of Police. It was decided to make over the upper floor of Mr. Donnithorne's house, No. 34, Strand Road, Howrah, which was acquired, for the residence of the Superintendent of Police. "Oakdene" at Darjeeling was purchased for Rs. 25,000 for a residence for the Executive Engineer. Three new sets of residences were built at Khulna for the three Deputy Magistrates.

462. In connection with the scheme for the establishment of a Provincial Agricultural College at Sabour (Bhagalpur), the College building, the Indian Professors' quarters and the hostel were started. Quarters for three overseers and field officers of the Agricultural Farm at the same place were under construction. At the Agricultural station, Bankipore, a combined office and inspection room was in progress; quarters were built for the Farm Superintendent; and a fodder silo and reservoir for holding water constructed at the Farm. A corrugated-iron shed was erected for the use of the labourers in the Experimental Farm at Bidyadharpur (Cuttack). Agriculture.

463. At the Veterinary Institute and College, Belgatchia, a new hostel for the students was constructed at a cost of Rs. 88,493; a *post-mortem* room was erected; quarters were built for the Hospital Surgeons, overseers and menials; and a room for photo-microscopy and a dark room were provided in the Serum House. Ve...nary.

464. Rupees 2,45,737 was spent during the year for the acquisition of land for a Government brick-field at Bally (Hooghly). Government Brick-fields.

465. A bungalow with the land attached to it was acquired at Sambalpur for the office of the Political Agent, Orissa Feudatory States, Political agencies.

Communications.

466. The total length of the Calcutta-Jessore road is 70¾ miles, of which 28 miles 6 furlongs. 109 yards are in the 24-Parganas district, and the rest, 42 miles, are in the Jessore district. Metalling the unmetalled portions of the road, 13 miles 2½ furlongs in the Jessore district and 1 mile 3,037 feet in the 24-Parganas district was in progress. 24-Parganas and Jessore.

467. To meet the heavy traffic, especially in the jute season, special repairs were done to certain portions of the Grand Trunk Road in the 5th, 10th and 15th miles in the district of 24-Parganas; the total length of the road in this district is 14⅝ miles. 24-Parganas.

468. An inspection bungalow was constructed on the north bank of the Mahanadi river at Nuapatna on the Cuttack-Sambalpur road, 4 miles 990 feet from Cuttack. Cuttack Division.

The approach road from Nuapatna to the bank of Mahanadi river was gravelled.

The rest-sheds for subordinates on the Cuttack-Ganjam road at Chandka and Jankia at 11th and 40½ miles, respectively, were nearly finished; those at Sonakhala and Barkul on the 61½ and 73 miles, respectively, were completed.

Two bridges on the 65th mile of the Cuttack-Ganjam road were reconstructed.

The extension of the approach road on the east side of the Ganjam road was nearly completed.

The improvement of the portion of the Cuttack-Sambalpur road lying within the town of Cuttack was almost completed.

The Cuttack-Angul-Sambalpur road, including the portion within the Native State of Rairakhol, is 160 miles long, of which nearly 3 miles are in the Cuttack district, 19 miles in the Native State of Athgarh, 11 miles in Dhenkanal State, 20 miles in Hindol State, 31 miles in Angul district, 25 miles in Athmallik State, 251 miles in Rairakhol State and 25½ miles in the Sambalpur district.

The improvement of the first section, 66 miles in length from Cuttack to Old Angul, of the Cuttack-Angul-Sambalpur road was completed. The road was submerged and badly damaged in various places by the high flood of the Mahanadi river during August 1907, and it was found that the waterways of several new culverts were insufficient. A revised estimate for improvement is under preparation.

469. Surveys of the second section, 43 miles in length, of the Cuttack-Angul-Sambalpur road from beyond Old Angul to the boundary of the Rairakhol State were commenced: one-third of survey work was finished. A detailed estimate for raising the road to class IA was prepared. Angul.

On the Cuttack-Sambalpur road, first and second sections, the construction of inspection bungalows on improved plan at Ghatipur,

Dhokta and Kanjura on the 31st, 62nd and 73rd miles of the road was completed.

The construction of the inspection bungalow at Bamore on the 105th mile of the Cuttack-Sambalpur road was in progress.

On the 23rd mile of the Angul-Tikerpara road, the out-houses of the Jagannathpur Inspection Bungalow were completed.

On the 18th mile of the Harbhanga-Phulbani road, over 34 miles in length, the new inspection bungalow at Ranipathar was under construction; a first class inspection bungalow at Phulbani near the end of the road was almost completed.

Sambalpur. 470. Construction of the third or Khalsa section of the Cuttack-Angul-Sambalpur road commencing from the western boundary of the Rairakhol State to Sambalpur, 25½ miles in length, was taken in hand. Earthwork was nearly finished. Several culverts were built. The collection of road metal and materials for the construction of bridges and culverts was in progress.

Bricks were manufactured for the construction of inspection bungalows, one at Mundhar on the 10th mile and the other at Jujumura at the 20th miles.

The construction of an inspection bungalow at Jharsuguda, near the Bengal-Nagpur Railway station of that name, was in progress.

Satisfactory progress was made with the improvement of the Sambalpur-Sonepur road, 52 miles in length, from Sambalpur to the Sonepur boundary. Earthwork was completed except at the last mile. Collection of moorum and materials for bridges and bungalows were in progress. Bricks were manufactured for the proposed rest-shed at Sahaspur at the 9th mile and for the proposed inspection bungalow at Dhama at the 15th mile.

The construction of the second section of the Bargarh-Bolangir road, *i.e.*, from Barpali to Sonepur border, about 7½ miles in length, was commenced and is in progress.

On the Cuttack-Sonepur road, 130 miles in length, the new inspection bungalow at Dholpur at the 109th mile from Cuttack was in progress; the inspection bungalow at Kutri on the 83rd mile was completed.

The inspection bungalows at Banki and Bydeswar at the 27th and 38th miles, respectively, of the Banki-Sonepur road were supplied with new furniture.

Puri. 471. Construction of three additional bed-rooms and a billiard-room to the Dâk Bungalow at Puri were almost completed. The bungalow was leased to Mrs. Clarkson. It is used as a hotel for the convenience of visitors to Puri.

Midnapore. 472. Repairs to certain sections of the Orissa Trunk Road, 319⅞ miles in length, were undertaken, as the floods of the rivers Cossye and Subarnarekha considerably damaged that road and the Mohunpur-Kharagpur road.

Land was acquired for an inspection bungalow at Danton, on the Orissa Trunk Road, 35 miles south of Midnapore.

Bankura. 473. The enlargement of the Vishnupur (Bishenpur) inspection bungalow at the 50th mile on the Raniganj-Midnapore road was undertaken. The road is 101 miles in length.

Burdwan. 474. Approach roads to the Public Works Department Inspection Bungalow at Asansol, on the 138th mile of the Grand Trunk Road, were constructed.

Howrah. 475. The Grand Trunk Road, South, between Telkalghât road and Khurut road junctions within the town of Howrah was widened to remove the congestion of traffic and to afford facilities for municipal drainage by constructing pucka drains; land was acquired for the purpose.

Land was acquired for widening certain portions of the Grand Trunk Road for the facility of electric tramway. traffic within the Municipal town of Howrah.

Hooghly. 476. To prevent accidents that are apprehended every year during the *Rath Jatra* (Car festival) to the people who assemble near Serampore and to the huge cars themselves, the widening of the metalled portion of the Grand Trunk Road, 14 miles, was ordered and metal collected.

477. *New High Level Tista Valley Road.*—The object of constructing this road is to avoid the heavy expenditure in maintenance of the existing low level road which is in precipitous ground close to the river and portions of which are flooded and very extensively damaged when the river is in high flood. Darjeeling.

The length of the new high level Tista Valley road is 17 miles. Excepting the first $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the first section which were nearly finished, the remaining $13\frac{1}{2}$ miles of the road from the $16\frac{1}{2}$ mile to end of road 29th mile was opened to traffic in June 1908.

The existing low level Tista Valley road starts from Siliguri. The first 12 miles are in the plains. The ghat portion commences from the 13th mile and joins the old low level road at the 29th mile of the old road.

The total length from Siliguri to Tista Bridge by the old road was $29\frac{1}{2}$ miles; by the new road it is $32\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

The high level road is carried along the right bank of the Tista river well above the high flood level of the river.

On the first section from the 13th to the 20th mile, the important bridge at Kalijhora, 100 feet span at the 18th mile from Siliguri, was raised to an additional height of 16 feet so as to make it safe from any possible rise of the Tista river.

On the second section from the 21st to the 29th mile there are two important rivers between the 22nd and 24th miles, one river, the Reang, is crossed by an iron girder bridge of 86 feet span clear, and the other, the Ranjoo river, is crossed by a suspension bridge of 154 feet clear span.

One deep rock gorge, the Tarjun Jhora, in the 26th mile, is crossed by a Howe Truss bridge of 60 feet span.

On the first section of 8 miles there are 38 bridges and culverts. On the second section of 9 miles there are 20 bridges and culverts. Many of the bridges are Howe Truss bridges.

On the 22nd mile there is a nice inspection bungalow at Birik.

Additions and alterations to the rest-house at Kalimpong on the 10th mile of the Rishi road were nearly completed.

The improvement of the District Road Committes road No. 34, from Panighata to Kudma in the Terai, 3 miles 525 feet in length, was completed.

A new inspection bungalow with out-houses on the Senchal Hill was built.

The survey of provincial roads in the Darjeeling district with the object of demarcating the Government lands attached to the roads was nearly finished.

Special repairs to the Darjeeling Hill Cart-road, 49 miles in length, and to the 13th to 30th miles of the old Tista Valley road, $29\frac{1}{2}$ miles in length, were undertaken.

Construction of a 100 feet span girder bridge over the Champta river, on the 3rd mile of the Matigara to Hill Cart-road, 21 miles in length in the Darjeeling district, was commenced.

On the Sukna-Adulpur road, 3 miles in length, concreting of foundation of bridges was done and masonry work was in progress; three-fourths of the work was done on bridges Nos. 4 and 11. The reconstruction of bridge No. 6 on the 8th mile of the Siliguri-Sevoke road, 12 miles in length, and the bridges on the Trihana-Bagdogra road were almost completed.

In the new dâk bungalow at Siliguri three-fourths of flooring, walling and roof was done; the stable was completed.

The abutment on the Siliguri side of the Champta Bridge No. 8, on the 3rd mile of the Matigara Hill cart-road, was completed, and the cutting of the foundations on the abutments on the other side was in progress.

478. Special repairs to the Pareshnath Hill road, $6\frac{3}{4}$ miles long, were nearly finsihed. Hazaribagh.

Additions were made to the dâk bungalow at Pareshnath Hill.

479. Surveys were made and levels taken for the reconstruction of the Daltonganj-Ranchi road, 65 miles in length. Palamau and Ranchi.

480. A survey of the whole of the 63 miles of the proposed road from Khunti to Biru was made during the year. Ranchi.

The Ranchi-Chaibassa road is 88 miles in length. The portion of this road lying within the town of Ranchi, about quarter of a mile, was metalled to meet the heavy traffic from and to the railway station.

Construction of a submerged bridge over the Subarnarekha river on the first section of the Ranchi-Chaibassa road from Ranchi to Bandgaon, 40 miles in Hattia village, 8 miles from Ranchi, was almost completed.

Singhbhum. 481. For the improvement of the Bandgaon-Nakti section, 23 miles in length, of the Ranchi-Chaibassa road, good progress was made with earthwork, metal collection and construction of culverts.

482. Arboricultural operations were in progress throughout the province of Bengal.

Good progress in arboriculture was made along roads in the Darjeeling Division.

Nurseries were opened on the second section of the Ranchi-Purulia road, Chura-Imandi road and the Grand Trunk Road.

Bamboo gabions were supplied to young trees, kutcha wells for watering plants were sunk and nurseries were started in places on the following roads in the Orissa Division :—

Cuttack-Puri road	Cuttack-Sonepur road.
Cuttack-Ganjam road.	Bargarh-Barpali-Sonepur Border road.
Cuttack-Angul-Sambalpur road.	Cuttack-Raipur road.
Angul-Tickerpara road.	Cuttack-Lepanga road.
Orissa-Trunk road.	

Miscellaneous Public Improvements.

Calcutta. 483. At the Dalhousie Square Park the equestrian statue of Sir John Woodburn, late Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, was erected, and the balustrade with a ghât on the west side of the tank was completed.

The re-arrangement of the tramway loops on the north-east corner of the Calcutta Maidan has been authorized, and the erection of an ornamental passenger shed over the loops and the laying out of the ground with the object of making it harmonize with the remainder of the Curzon Gardens is under consideration.

The lighting of the Calcutta Maidan at all important road junctions was improved.

The drainage of the south-east portion of the Calcutta Maidan was improved to a considerable extent by the Calcutta Corporation at an estimated cost of Rs. 71,887, of which Government contributed Rs. 49,416.

To remove the great inconvenience to the public attending the Jetties through the Government brick depôt at Babughat, in Strand Road, the depôt was shifted a little to the south.

A portion of the carriage stand in Strand Road west of the Eden Gardens, Calcutta, was metalled.

Certain additions and altrations were made to the Branch Shipping Office at Kidderpore.

24-Parganas. 484. A light railway track for the carriage of materials for the various constructional works at the Fraserganj Settlement was completed.

The construction of two refuge-houses at Fraserganj is approaching completion.

A screw-pile landing stage was erected at Fraserganj.

A landing platform on the bank of the river Ichamutty at Basirhat was constructed.

Khulna. 485. Landing-stages were constructed over the Bhairab and Rupsa rivers at Khulna.

Jessore. 486. Boring operations in the Bhairab river at Jessore for filtered water-supply within the Jessore Municipality were completed.

Murshidabad. 487. For protecting the river slope in front of the Nawab's palace at Murshidabad from the encroachment of the river Bhagirathi the slope was repaired in order to keep it in good condition.

Government accepted the financial responsibility of the cost of a Telegraph line and a Telegraph-office at Dumkal in the district of Murshidabad. The Telegraph-office was opened on the 25th March 1908.

488. The foreshore of the Hooghly river at Serampore in front of Marshman's College was protected. Hooghly.

489. The drainage of the Matigara and Naxalbari Hâts and the Siliguri Bazar was completed. Darjeeling.

The improvement of the water-supply at Kalimpong was taken in hand.

The Public Works Department fire appliances for the protection of Government buildings, etc., at Darjeeling were brought into line with those of the Darjeeling Volunteer Fire-Brigade, and half the work was done.

Protective works on the hillside above the old Diocesan Girls' School Building at Darjeeling, which had been purchased for the Volunteer Headquarters, were completed.

Almost all the boundary-pillars between Nepal and British frontier of the Darjeeling district along the Mechi river were erected.

490. At the Bhagalpur water-works two-thirds of the masonry work for the new engine-house was done, and a new site was excavated 16 feet deep for the intake well. Bhagalpur.

491. The excavation of a reservoir below Observatory Hill at Angul for drinking-water was completed; dressing, turfing and culverts remain to be done. Angul.

In the reserve forests at Angul, tanks at Kanja and Durgapur were completed; a tank at Kurro was nearly completed.

492. Rubble-packing on the bank of the Mahanadi river at Banki was done. Cuttack.

A telephone exchange was established at Cuttack with 19 connections between certain Government offices and official residential buildings.

The following Electric Licenses were granted during the year:—

(1) The Hooghly River Electric License of 1907—granted at Calcutta to Messrs. Killick, Nixon & Co. and John Fleming & Co., Bombay, for the supply of electric energy to the Hooghly river district of Bengal.

(2) The Barrackpore Subdivision Electric License of 1907—granted at Calcutta to the Barrackpore Electric Supply Company, Limited, for the supply of electric energy within the subdivision of Barrackpore.

(3) The Coal-fields Electric License, 1907—granted to Messrs. Hoare, Miller & Co. at Calcutta, for the supply of electric energy to certain portions of the Burdwan and Manbhum districts.

Railway.

493. There are no Railways under the direct administration of the Government of Bengal. A few small lines of only local importance are subject to a certain measure of control by this Government, all the more important lines being under the control of the Railway Board. Control.

494. During the year the open mileage was increased as follows:— Additions to mileage.

	Miles.
Standard gauge—	
Lalgola Ghât Branch (Eastern Bengal State Railway) ...	2¾
Metre gauge—	
Daronda-Maharajganj Branch (Bengal and North-Western Railway)	4
Sawan-Thawe Branch (Bengal and North-Western Railway)	17¾
Pile bridge at Bagaha and approaches (Bengal and North-Western Railway)	1·48
Narkatiaganj-Bagaha Ghât section (Tirhut State Railway)	26¾
Bairagnia-Narkatiaganj section (Tirhut State Railway) ...	56¼
Mansi-Makhana Bazar section (Tirhut State Railway) ...	16
Budham Ghât Branch (Tirhut State Railway) ...	18½
Saharsa to Budham Ghât (Tirhut State Railway) ...	20·09
2′ 6″ gauge—	
Purulia-Ranchi (Bengal-Nagpur Railway)	72¼

Abandonment of lines opened for traffic.

495. On the Tirhut section the line between Partabganj and Khanwa Ghât, a distance of 8 miles, was breached in several places by the incursion of the Kosi river in consequence of which it was decided to abandon the line and to locate a new line from Partabganj to Beerpore. The line from Partabganj to Balooa Road (2 miles) was closed for traffic from the 15th March 1908.

With these additions and reductions the open mileage in the Province on the 1st April 1908 was as follows:—

	Miles.
Standard gauge	2,898
Metre gauge	1,105
2′ 6″ gauge	236
2′ 0″ gauge	108

Lines under construction or sanctioned for construction.

496. (*a*) The following lines are under construction and some of them have already been opened to traffic:—

	Miles.
Bengal-Nagpur Railway—	
Branch line near Khanoodih	1·97
Eastern Bengal State Railway—	
Forbesganj to the Nepal Frontier	7·40
Katihar to Godagari (portion in this Province)	16·75
East Indian Railway—	
Barharwa to Katwa	99·14
Ghât line to Dhulian	1·06
Bengal and North-Western Railway, including Tirhut section—	
Bhagalpur Kuchary to Bhagalpur	0·79
Pile bridge at Bagaha and approaches	1·48
Saharsa to Budham Ghât	18·61
Barasat-Basirhat Light Railway Company, Limited—	
Basirhat to Hosanabad	8·50
Howrah-Amta Light Railway—	
Antpur to Champadanga	6·75

(*b*) The following new lines have been authorized for construction:—

	Miles.
Bengal-Nagpur Railway—	
Bhojudih to Parthadihi	2·28
Sini to Gurumaisoini	44·00
East Indian Railway—	
Bhagalpur to Bausi	31·04
Hooghly to Katwa	65 20
Toposi to Baraboni	9·31
Mile 107$\frac{7}{8}$ from Howrah on the Jheria branch to Chandore ...	4·16
Howrah-Amta Light Railway—	
Antpur to Rajbulhat	3·50

Surveys completed.

497. The East Indian Railway completed the preliminary survey for a line on the broad gauge from Sainthia to Berhampore, about 40 miles.

The Bengal and North-Western Railway have completed the following surveys for lines on the metre gauge:—(1) Chapra to Mushrakh, 26·25 miles; (2) from Khagaria to Darbhanga, 63·31 miles; (3) from Muzaffarpur to Darbhanga, 30·38 miles, with a branch from Tewarah to Sitamarhi, 30·05 miles, and (4) from Shakarpura on to Samastipur, 28·10 miles.

Surveys in progress.

498. In the following cases surveys are either in progress or have been authorized:—

By the Eastern Bengal State Railway.—From Kankinara station to the Indo-Austrian Jute Mill at Kankinara on the left bank of the Ganges river.

Extension of the Khulna Yard on the Central section.

By the East Indian Railway.—From Sinthia station on the Loop line in Kandi to the right bank of the river Bhagirathi opposite Berhampore, a distance of 40 miles.

Construction of a railway from Sone east bank station of the East Indian Railway to the Bokara and Ramgarh coal-fields.

By the Bengal-Nagpur Railway.—From Amda to Gurumaisoini *viâ* Chaibassa, on the broad gange, a distance of 48 miles.

By Messrs. Martin & Co.—Construction of a Light Railway from Arrah to Sasaram in the Shahabad district.

By the Bengal and North-Western Railway.—Line from Thawe to Domritollah on the 3′ 3$\frac{3}{8}$″ guage from Partabganj to Bhimnagar, 13$\frac{3}{4}$ miles.

Other projects.

499. The Commissioner of Orissa submitted a proposal by the District Board of Cuttack for the construction of a Light Railway from Jajpur Road station, on the Bengal-Nagpur Railway, to Jajpur, the head-quarters of the Jajpur subdivision. At the request of this Government the Railway Board gave an assurance that there is no likelihood of a rival or competitive line being sanctioned in the locality, should the District Board construct the proposed line.

The proposal made by Messrs. Octavius, Steel & Co., for the construction of a tramway under Act III of 1883 from Dehri to Akbarpur, a distance of 25 miles, in the district of Shahabad, has been accepted, and the order under the Tramways Act is about to issue.

The construction of an extension of the Bukhtiarpur-Bihar Light Railway to Silao, a distance of about 10 miles, has been approved.

Important matters dealt with.

500. The Government of India, in the Department of Commerce and Industry, appointed a Committee to consider the question of the bridging of the Ganges. In reply to a reference to this Government, the Government of India were informed that the Government of Bengal concurred in the recommendations of the Committee. It was also stated that the Lieutenant-Governor desired to emphasize the urgent requirement of a bridge at or near Sara, and expressed his sympathy with the feeling of impatience which had been shown by the commercial community and the general public at the long delay which has already occurred in meeting this greatly-felt want.

At the request of the Railway Board, a statement was submitted, showing, in order of urgency and importance, the new lines of railways in this Province which the Local Government recommended should take an early place in the programme of construction.

In connection with the proposal of the Railway Board for the disposal of the Ranaghat-Krishnagar Light Railway, this Government approved of the proposal that the line from Santipur to Krishnagar should be maintained and a branch made to Kulna Ferry, and that the narrow gange line may be taken on to Ranaghat.

The approval of the Bengal Government was given to the site selected for the railway bridge over the Gandak river at Bagaha, and the Consulting Engineer, Lucknow, was furnished with a copy of a note by the Chief Engineer, Bengal, on the waterway proposed for the bridge.

Railways controlled by the Government of Bengal.

501. The mileage of the railways subject to the control of this Government was as follows:—

	Miles.
(1) The Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway	51
(2) The Deoghur Railway	4·79
(3) The Tarkeswar-Mogra Railway	33·27
(4) The Howrah-Amta Railway	37·19
(5) The Howrah-Shiakhala Railway	19·75
(6) The Bhukhtiarpur-Bihar Railway	18·50
(7) The Barasat-Basirhat Railway	26·06
Total ...	190·56

The Darjeeling-Himalayan Railway maintains its position as the line earning the largest profits in the Province.

The Light Railways are all being worked successfully, and yield a good return to the shareholders and to the District Boards.

Canals—Irrigation and Navigation.

[Administration Report of Irrigation Works for the year 1907-1908.]

Capital and revenue account.

502. The transactions of the Irrigation Department for the year 1907-1908 are exhibited in the statements given in the next page so far as they relate to works of Irrigation and Navigation. Works which afford protection from flood

or which facilitate drainage are reviewed separately, and are not noticed in this report.

Capital Account.

Heads.	Amount of construction Estimate.	Expenditure during 1907-1908.	Expenditure to end of 1907-1908.	Balance for Expenditure from 1st April 1908.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Protective Irrigation Works.				
Direct charges	56,13,464	9,01,527	35,86,835	20,26,629
Indirect „	1,31,055	19,058	87,197	43,858
Total ...	57,44,519	9,20,585	36,74,032	20,70,487
Major Irrigation Works.				
Direct charges	6,27,78,972	31,969	6,27,40,163	38,809
Indirect „	17,62,484	1,082	17,60,909	1,575
Total ...	6,45,41,456	33,051	6,45,01,072	40,384
Minor Works and Navigation.				
Direct charges	1,50,63,414	2,80,489	1,42,79,902	7,83,512
Indirect „	2,60,122	(—)5,553	2,62,255	(—) 2,133
Total ...	1,53,23,536	2,74,936	1,45,42,157	7,81,379

Revenue Account.

Heads.	Receipts.	Working Expenses.		Total Working Expenses.	Net Revenue.
		Direct Charges.	Indirect Charges.		
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Major Irrigation Works* ...	23,62,609	14,06,860	1,05,732	15,12,592	8,50,017
Minor Works and Navigation.					
Works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept.	5,48,385	5,77,587	29,275	6,06,862	(—)58,477
Works for which only Revenue accounts are kept.	37,639	1,22,879	5,254	1,28,133	(—)90,494
Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept.	24,772	39,569	...	39,569	(—)14,797

* Inclusive of the Dhaka Canal.

Classification of Irrigation and Navigation Works.

503. The classification of the works dealt with in this review is as follows:—

Protective Irrigation Works.—The only works comprised in this class are the Tribeni and Dhaka Canals. They were sanctioned in the year 1900-1901. The Tribeni Canal is still under construction, while the Dhaka Canal is practically complete. They are purely irrigation works. A revised estimate for the Tribeni Canal amounting to Rs. 51,35,328,

was sanctioned by the Secretary of State, and a second revised estimate is now under preparation. The revised estimate, amounting to Rs. 6,09,191, for the Dhaka Canal, was sanctioned by the Government of India. The construction estimate of this canal has been closed from 31st March 1908. The necessary schedule of works and the report on the project referred to in paragraph 1969 of the P. W. D. Code, volume II, are being prepared. The Revenue Account of the Canal has been opened from the year 1906-07 and is shown under "42—Provincial."

Account.—49—Major Works.—In these are included the Orissa, Midnapore, Sone and Hijili Tidal Canals. The Hijili Tidal Canal is for navigation only, while the other three canals provide for both irrigation and navigation. The original Capital account of these canals has been closed and all present Capital outlay is charged against head "43—Minor Works and Navigation." The Revenue account is shown under head "42—Major Works—Working Expenses."

Account.—43—Minor Works and Navigation.—(I) The works for which Capital and Revenue accounts are kept include the Calcutta and Eastern Canals and the Orissa Coast Canal for navigation and the Saran Canals for irrigation. (II) The works for which only Revenue accounts are kept are the Nadia Rivers and Gaighatta and Baxi Khal, and they are used for navigation only. (III) The works for which neither Capital nor Revenue accounts are kept include the Eden Canal which is used partly for irrigation but mainly to afford a supply of water for drinking and as a measure of sanitation, and the Madhuban (Teur) Canal for irrigation only. Under (II) is also included the Magrahât drainage scheme in the 24-Parganas district which is being carried out under the provisions of the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act, VIII (B.C.) of 1895.

The transactions of the year for each of the above works are briefly stated in the following summary which is given for convenience by circles of superintendence.

ORISSA CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

Orissa Canals.

504. The expenditure (direct charges) charged to the Capital Account of the Orissa Canals during the year was Rs. 33,411. The total Capital outlay for direct charges to the end of the year stands at Rs. 2,60,70,300. Capital Account.

During the year the following works were in progress:—

The construction of 1E. Distributary from No. 1 Main Jajpur Canal, commenced last year is still in progress. The extension of 2A. Distributary, Pattamundi Canal, was approaching completion at the end of the year. The work of remodelling Distributaries Nos. 8K, 8K-1, Kendrapara Canal, and extending 8K-1 beyond the spill channel of the Gobri river was commenced. The raising of the flood bank of the Pattamundi Canal to 3 feet above the extraordinary flood of August 1907 in the Brahmini river was commenced during the year. The construction of the Tentulipada Distributary from 1 mile 430 feet of No. 12 Distributary, Taldanda Canal, was in progress. Estimates for the extension of No. 12E. and 13 Distributaries of the Taldanda Canal were sanctioned during the latter part of the year. Two hundred and six permanent outlets were constructed during the year, as shown below:—

Kendrapara Canal and its Distributaries		167
Pattamundi ditto		7
Gobri ditto		21
Gobri Extension ditto		9
Machgong Canal		2
	Total ...	206

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

Length of Canals, etc.

505. The lengths of canals and distributaries which were in operation during the year were:—Orissa Canals—canals for irrigation and navigation, 204¾ miles; canals for irrigation only, 122 miles; distributaries and minor channels, 1,190 miles, 4½ miles being added during the year. Canals for navigation only—Hijili Tidal Canal, 29 miles; Orissa Coast Canal, 129¾ miles.

Rainfall.

506. The average annual rainfall at the 13 recording stations on the Orissa Canals was 67·75 inches, against 48·20 inches in the previous year. The rainfall was above the average.

Irrigation.

507. The area irrigated was 289,506 acres, against 266,961 acres in the preceding year. There was an increase of 14,279 acres under *kharif* and of 8,266 acres under *rabi*. The increase in the former is due to short rainfall in July and to extension of irrigation as a result of the new minor distributaries constructed. The large increase under *rabi* is due to the extensive cultivation of Dalwa after the destruction of the *kharif* crop by the extraordinary high floods in the Brahmini and Byturni rivers in August 1907.

The cash realizations on account of water-rates amounted to Rs. 3,99,316, against the demand of Rs. 4,05,391; Rs. 3,512 were remitted and the outstanding balance was Rs. 2,563. The result is satisfactory.

Navigation Receipts.

508. The receipts from the navigation tolls on the Orissa Canals, including boats and rafts, were Rs. 53,208, against Rs. 72,938 in 1906-1907. The tonnage of boats was 261,608, against 311,533 in the preceding year.

There was an all-round reduction owing to a small export of rice. This was due not only to the crop on the whole being a poor one, but to the great demand for local consumption.

Financial Results.

509. The revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the Orissa Canals during the year were Rs. 4,83,820 and Rs. 4,60,314 respectively, the result being a net revenue of Rs. 23,503, against Rs. 69,363 in the preceding year.

Hijili Tidal Canal.

510. There was no addition to the capital outlay during the year, which now stands at Rs. 25,51,641 (direct charges). The total receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 58,703 and Rs. 42,623, respectively, against Rs. 71,515 and Rs. 53,834, respectively, in the preceding year. The result was a net revenue of Rs. 16,080 against Rs. 17,681 in the preceding year. As has been the case with the Orissa Canals, there was a decrease in navigation receipts from this canal also.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Orissa Coast Canal.

511. There was no outlay chargeable to the Capital account during the year. The total Capital outlay (direct charges) to end of the year amounts to Rs. 43,72,462. Ranges III, IVA and IVB remained open throughout the year, but Range V was closed from 15th December 1906 to 30th June 1907, and again from 10th January 1908 to end of the year, for silt clearance. The total expenditure incurred on silt-clearance of the range amounted to Rs. 77,732, against Rs. 1,15,169, the amount of the sanctioned estimate. The silt-clearance of the Bhograi supply channel was completed during the year under review at a total cost of Rs. 8,376. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 24,934 and Rs. 1,35,441, respectively, against Rs. 37,686 and Rs. 1,26,714, respectively, in the preceding year. The reduction in receipts, which are mainly from toll earnings, is partly due to the long closure of Range V of the Canal, but mainly to there having been a decrease in the traffic caused by the failure of the rice crop.

The working expenses continued to be heavy in consequence of the heavy expenditure on silt-clearance of Range V and special repairs to the inlet and outlet sluices of this range.

Floods.

512. The Matai rose in high flood, the highest recorded for very many years. Considerable damage was done to the banks of Range V of the Orissa Coast Canal, and to the Sea Embankment No. 7B. The Subarnarekha was also in high flood on the 3rd September 1907. There were no very high floods in any of the other rivers crossed by this canal.

SOUTH-WESTERN CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

Midnapore Canal.

513. The outlay chargeable to capital during the year amounted to Rs. 638, which was spent principally on permanent outlets. The total capital expenditure (direct charges) now stands at Rs. 83,05,920. Capital account.

514. The lengths of main canal distributaries and village channels remain the same as last year, viz., main canal and branches, 69¾ miles; distributaries, 266·89 miles; village channels 29·95 miles; and drainage channels 54·42 miles. Lengths of Canals, etc.

515. The highest flood in the river Cossye during the year was on the 2nd September 1907, when the gauge at Mohanpur read 94·50, which is the highest on record and 1·20 feet higher than the flood of 19th June 1898. Floods.

516. The total rainfall registered at Midnapore and Panchkura was as follows:— Rainfall.

Station.	1907-1908.	Average of 10 previous years.
	Inches.	Inches.
Midnapore	52·86	59·94
Panchkura	46·88	57·22

517. The area irrigated from the canal was 62,040 acres, against 61,042 acres in the previous year. Owing to there being very little rainfall from the middle of September to October 1907, the demand for canal-water was very great. Great difficulty was experienced in supplying water to the leased area on account of the small supply in the river, and the difficulty was increased by a breach on the anicut which occurred in the high flood mentioned above. Out of the total demand of Rs. 1,05,031, Rs. 96,525 were actually realized and Rs. 8,407 were remitted, leaving an arrear balance of Rs. 99 only. Irrigation.

518. The navigation receipts amounted to Rs. 35,345, against Rs. 50,318 in the previous year. The decrease is due to (1) large exports of rice in 1906-1907, and a poor crop in 1907-1908; (2) the effects of heavy floods breaching the canal banks; (3) the formation of an extensive *chur* in the Rupnarayan near the Kantapukur Lock entrance, and to (4) the heavy deposit of silt in the tidal reaches. Navigation receipts.

The canal from Mohunpur to Panchkura was practically closed to traffic for about a fortnight to meet a very urgent irrigation demand in November 1907.

519. The gross revenue and working expenses (direct and indirect) of the canal amounted to Rs. 1,52,342 and Rs. 1,91,459, respectively, resulting in a deficit of Rs. 39,117, as compared with a deficit of Rs. 15,295 in the previous year. Financial results.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Calcutta and Eastern Canals.

520. The outlay of the year, chargeable to the Capital account (direct charges) was Rs. 2,80,914, of which Rs. 1,53,591 were spent on the Ultadanga-Bamonghatta Canal, Rs. 19,860 on the construction of a bridge over the New Cut Canal, while the remainder represents principally the outlay on the Madaripur Bhil channel and on the construction of the dredger *Foyers*. Capital account.

521. The receipts from navigation tolls amounted to Rs. 4,92,695 as compared with Rs. 4,81,742 in the preceding year. The Madaripur Bhil channel contributed Rs. 61,239 against Rs. 57,806 in 1906-1907. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) amounted to Rs. 5,22,734 and Rs. 4,68,713, respectively, against Rs. 5,03,968 and Rs. 4,57,971, respectively, in 1906-1907. The net revenue was therefore Rs. 54,021 against Rs. 45,997 in the previous year. Navigation receipts.

Nadia Rivers.

522. The approximate lengths of the channels comprised in the Nadia Rivers remained the same as last year, viz.:—

	Miles.
Bhagirathi river	157½
Bhyrub-Jalangi	146
Matabhanga	137
Hooghly	32
Total ...	472½

No Capital account is kept. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 35,229 and Rs. 1,18,139, respectively, against Rs. 45,352 and Rs. 1,53,156, respectively, in the preceding year. The falling off in receipts is mainly attributable to continued scarcity of the food staples and to the unfavourable state of the rivers and also to the reduction in the rate of tolls.

Gaighata and Buxikhal.

523. The receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) for the year were Rs. 2,410 and Rs. 9,994, respectively, against Rs. 3,000 and Rs. 102, repectively, in the previous year. The heavy maintenance charge, as compared with the previous year, was due to silt-clearance. As the *khal* was closed from 20th January to 31st March 1908 for silt-clearance, Rs. 590 had to be remitted to the lessees to whom the collections were farmed out. The right of collecting tolls on the *khal* was leased for two years 1906-1907 and 1907-1908 at an annual rental of Rs. 3,000. At the close of the year the collection of toll has been farmed out for two years 1908-1909 and 1909-1910 at Rs. 4,500 per annum.

Eden Canal.

524. The receipts and working expenses were Rs. 18,957 and Rs. 31,112, respectively, against Rs. 29,109 and Rs. 31,847, respectively, in the year 1906-1907. The area irrigated during the year was 22,115 acres against 22,223 acres in the preceding year. There was much difficulty in supplying water for irrigation owing to the unfavourable state of the channel of the Damodar river at the head sluice.

SONE CIRCLE.

Major Irrigation Works.

Sone Canals.

Capital account.

525. The outlay (direct charges) charged to the Capital account of the Sone Canals during the year was Rs. (—) 2,080. The total Capital outlay (direct charges) up to the end of 1907-1908 was Rs. 2,58,12,302.

Lengths of canals, etc.

526. The lengths of canals and distributaries in operation at the close of the year remain the same as previously reported, viz., 1,584½ miles.

Rainfall.

527. The average rainfall registered at 12 stations was 33·06 inches, as compared with an average of 40·51 inches in the previous year. From September to December, there was practically no rain in this Circle, and in other months also the rainfall was below the average.

Irrigation.

528. The area irrigated under long lease at the end of the year under report was 396,303 acres, against 396,140 acres at the end of the last year. Owing to there being no rain from September to December, there was a considerable increase in the *rabi* irrigation.

The cash realizations on account of water-rates amounted to Rs. 15,61,244, against the demand of Rs. 15,65,009. The amount remitted was Rs. 2,376, and the balance unrealized at the end of the year was Rs. 1,389.

Navigation receipts.

529. The navigation receipts during the year were Rs. 26,506, against Rs. 42,276 in the previous year. The decrease is due to less traffic in rice and other food-grains owing to the failure of crops outside the irrigated lands.

Financial results.

530. The gross receipts and working expenses (direct and indirect) were Rs. 16,49,936 and Rs. 7,98,394, respectively, against Rs. 15,60,839 and

Rs. 6,19,850 in the preceding year. The increase under working expenses was due to (1) special repairs to the Sone weir and (2) renewals of lock-gates.

531. The Main Western Canal from the 12th mile below the off-take of the Buxar Canal was closed from the 15th April to 24th June 1907, both days inclusive, for the construction of a moveable dam. Closure of Canals.

532. There were no very high floods in the rivers Sone and Ganges during the year. Although the August flood in the river Sone was well below that of previous years, it was remarkable for the length of time it kept up at a level that required the head sluices at Dehri and Baroon to be closed. Floods.

GANDAK CIRCLE.

Protective Irrigation Works.

533. The expenditure (direct charges) on the Tribeni Canal during the year was Rs. 8,70,333; on the Dhaka Canal the expenditure was Rs. 31,194. The progress made with the works up to 31st March 1908 is as follows:— Tribeni and Dhaka Canals.

Tribeni Canal.

Out of 23 large works, viz., five syphons under rivers and 18 aqueducts, one syphon was completed, two others were nearly completed, and the remainder were under construction; four aqueducts were completed, two were nearly finished and 11 were under construction. The head sluice was completed except the fixing of the gearing.

Of smaller works, viz., 14 bridges and four syphons for local drainage, 12 bridges were completed, and the remaining two were under construction. One syphon for local drainage was completed, and the excavation of foundation of three others was in progress.

The excavation of the canal from the 1st to the 6th mile has been almost completed. From the 7th to the 47th mile the excavation is completed, except for short lengths of a few chains near the masonry works and where nalas, pynes, etc., cross the canal.

Acquisition proceedings for land required for all the distributaries, except Mehendi, were completed. The construction of 10 distributaries was taken in hand, and the work was in progress when the year closed.

It was hoped at the commencement of the season that it might be possible to open this season the first 40 miles of the canal as far as the Masan river, but this could not be done on account of certain alterations required to the head sluice, and also on account of slow progress of the work generally.

Dhaka Canal.

The project, as sanctioned, is complete, except village channels and outlets; also some small syphons (not included in the construction estimate) are required to facilitate the drainage.

All distributaries except Jhawa were completed, with the exception of two small masonry works on Haranarain and Motia Mohan distributaries; also turfing and dressing of earthwork of the latter.

The downstream apron of the Lalbukeya weir was undermined to a small extent and the pool below the weir deepened; the last row of masonry blocks was damaged and one 8-feet shutter was carried away.

The damage caused to the weir by the floods of 1906 was made good; an extra length of 15 feet of concrete was added to the downstream floor of the head sluice; also necessary repairs to the head sluice were carried out.

A drainage syphon of four vents was constructed at the 4th mile of Seeraha branch canal near Bakri. This was not within the scope of the construction estimate.

The working expenses (direct and indirect) of the canal were Rs. 19,802. The gross receipts amounted to Rs. 17,808, the result being a deficit of Rs. 1,994.

The area irrigated from the canal was 12,824 acres, of which 8,794 acres were under *kharif* irrigation and the balance (4,030 acres) under *rabi*. There was a good demand for canal-water for *kharif* irrigation from the first week in October up to the first week of November owing to insufficient rain. The whole area for which applications were received could not, however, be irrigated on account of the small supply of water in the river, and the cultivators made it still more difficult to supply all leases with water by holding off until more than half the *hathya* period was over before they all came in with a rush with applications for water.

Owing to the drought the demand for *rabi* irrigation was also good, and irrigation of all leases entered into was carried out satisfactorily. There was a sufficient supply in the river up to the end of January 1907, but in February it began to fall short.

Minor Works and Navigation.

Works for which Capital and Revenue Accounts are kept.

A little irrigation was done from these canals. No departmental control was, however, kept over this irrigation. Water was supplied to the canals at the request of the Manager, Hathwa Raj, and the Managers of Indigo concerns who paid the cost of making necessary dams, etc.

No damage was done to the canals by floods.

Works for which neither Capital nor Revenue Accounts are kept.

Teur (Madhuban) Canal.

534. The only work of this class is the Teur (Madhuban) Canal, which is 10 miles and 6 chains in length with one distributary (Lukhowara) 6·30 miles long.

The canal was maintained in good order at a total cost of Rs. 8,457, against Rs. 3,294 of the previous year.

The total area irrigated during the year inclusive of the zirat lands of the Madhuban Babus which are irrigated free of charge was 4,797 acres, against 4,302 acres in the preceding year. There was a good demand for canal-water for *rabi* irrigation. Water was satisfactorily supplied, as there was a sufficient supply in the river throughout the *rabi* season.

Embankments and Drainage.

[The Embankment and Drainage Reports for the year 1907-1908.]

Lengths of embankments and areas protected.

535. The expenditure incurred on works and repairs (exclusive of book charges for Establishment and Tools and Plant) during the year on embankments and drainage works in Bengal was Rs. 9,43,812.

A total length of 2,141 miles of embankments protecting 8,649,099 acres was maintained during the year.

Floods.

536. In the Orissa Circle, the floods in the rivers Brahmini, Byturni and Kopali were the highest yet recorded. Much damage was done to the agricultural embankments and to Ranges II and III of the High Level Canal. Crops were destroyed in the areas not protected by canal embankments, and many huts collapsed. The floods in the Salindi, Matai and Subarnarekha rivers were also very high. The flood in the Mahanadi was a moderate one.

In the South-Western Circle, there was a high flood in the Damodar river. The gauge at Edilpur on the 3rd September 1907 was 1 foot 4 inches above the previous recorded maximum. The Cossye river was also in high flood.

In the Gandak Circle, the floods were of an ordinary nature.

Breaches.

537. In the Orissa Circle, altogether 298 breaches occurred during the year, viz., 124 in the Akhoyapada-Jajpur Division, 33 in the Brahmini-Byturni Division, 11 in the Mahanadi Division, and 130 in the Balasore Division. The total length of breaches was 4 miles and 787 feet. In addition, the Orissa Trunk Road between the Byturni and Salindi rivers was breached in two places for a total length of 250 feet.

In the South-Western Circle, 222 breaches occurred in the Schedule D embankments and 13 in the *takavi* embankments. There were no breaches in the embankments in the Gandak and Northern Circles.

Surveys and Investigations.

538. In the Orissa Circle, plans and estimate were prepared for extending embankment No. 55B in the Brahmini-Byturni Division. Surveys of the Bichitrapur Government estate in the Balasore district to ascertain the locality of bunds permissible in the tidal portion of the estate were also completed during the year. In the South-Western Circle, surveys were made of some portions of the *takavi* embankments, where the Cossye river had badly encroached. A complete survey was also made for the drainage of the town of Berhampore and improvement of the Gobra Nala in the district of Murshidabad.

Original Works.

539. The outlay of the year (without charges for Establishment and Tools and Plant) under this head amounts to Rs. 90,088.

The more important works were as under:—

In the Orissa Circle, the work in connection with the construction of three permanent escapes in the Dya left embankment at an estimated cost of Rs. 39,362 was approaching completion, the outlay of the year being Rs. 20,463. Eighty per cent. of the work for the improvement of the channel of the South Kania river was done during the year at an outlay of Rs. 4,582.

In the South-Western Circle, the raising of the crest of the embankment on the left bank of the Hooghly, near Diamond Harbour, was completed. The total expenditure on this work has been Rs. 51,201, the outlay of the year being Rs. 10,465.

During the year 1907-08, the private embankment in the Begusarai subdivision of the Monghyr district, generally known as the Gupta bund, was taken charge of, and is to be strengthened and maintained by the officers of Government under the provisions of the Act.

Ordinary Repairs.

540. The expenditure on repairs (without book charges for Establishment and Tools and Plant) aggregated Rs. 3,99,497.

The expenditure on repairs to the Orissa embankments was Rs. 53,038, against Rs. 24,805 in the previous year. The excess was almost entirely due to repairs to the damage caused by the very high floods in the Brahmini and Byturni rivers. The total cost of repairs to the Schedule D embankments (class B) in the Midnapore district, which are in the Orissa Circle, was Rs. 24,260, against Rs. 36,625 in the year 1906-1907.

In the South-Western Circle, the expenditure on ordinary repairs to Schedule D and other embankments was Rs. 1,01,588, against Rs. 1,09,274 in the previous year. There was a decrease in the districts of Burdwan, Nadia and 24-Parganas, while the expenditure in the other districts was rather greater than that of the previous year.

On (class C) *takavi* embankments under contract in the Midnapore, Muzaffarpur, Saran and Champaran districts, a sum of Rs. 70,282 was expended during the year as compared with the contract provision of Rs. 1,05,070. The outlay incurred on the maintenance and special repairs of the Gandak embankments was Rs. 39,230, against Rs. 35,996 in the preceding year. The expenditure on repairs to the Midnapore embankments of this class in the Cossye and Balasore Divisions was Rs. 31,052, against Rs. 25,422 during the previous year.

On (class D) *takavi* embankments with an annual apportionment of actual cost, the outlay incurred on repairs was Rs. 13,027, against Rs. 12,988 in the previous year.

Protection of River Banks.

541. In the Orissa Circle, the total outlay incurred on repairs to revetments and other works for the protection of the river banks was Rs. 13,707 against Rs. 1,035 in the preceding year. The expenditure in 1907-1908 includes Rs. 8,031 spent on repairs to the weir across the Janardan Ghai on the Brahmini river. The expenditure on similar works in the South-Western and Gandak Circles was, respectively, Rs. 21,634 and Rs. 2,037.

Financial.

542. The actual outlay during the year on the Orissa embankments (class A) maintained as agricultural works, exclusive of charges for Establishment and Tools and Plant, was Rs. 53,038, against Rs. 24,805 in the previous year, the average rate per mile being Rs. 103. The expenditure on (class B) Government embankments was Rs. 2,63,150 against Rs. 2,17,378 in the year before, the average rate being Rs. 245 against Rs. 201 in 1906-1907.

Government has contracted to maintain certain embankments on behalf of the persons benefited at a fixed annual charge in the districts of Saran,

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Champaran, Muzaffarpur and Midnapore. The following statement shows the expenditure incurred on these embankments as compared with the contract payments :—

Year.	Midnapore District.		Saran District.		Champaran District.		Muzaffarpur District.	
	Maintenance charge.	Contract amount.	Maintenance charge.	Contract amount.	Maintenance charge.	Contract amount.	Maintenance charge.	Contract amount.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1906-1907 ...	25,422	50,755	8,137	23,900	15,131	20,000	12,728	10,415
1907-1908 ...	31,052	50,755	16,658	23,900	14,936	20,000	7,636	10,415

Note.—The figures in this table under column "Maintenance charge" represent the cash outlay on maintenance and repairs without any book charges for Establishment and Tools and Plant.

Works undertaken under the provisions of the Drainage Act, VI (B. C.) of 1880.

543. The Dankuni, Howrah, Rajapur and Barajolla drainage works in the Hooghly district, in charge of the Executive Engineer, Northern Drainage and Embankment Division, were maintained in good order during the year. The cost of their upkeep compared with the previous year is shown below :—

	1906-1907.	1907-1908.
	Rs.	Rs.
Dankuni	258	2,682
Howrah	862	3,724
Rajapur ... ... / Barajolla	9,604	11,716
Total ...	10,724	18,122

The receipts from these works hitherto credited to the Civil Department have been transferred to this Department from 1st April 1907.

Works undertaken under the provisions of the Sanitary Drainage Act, VIII (B.C.) of 1895.

544. The only work which has as yet been taken up under this Act is that known as the Magra Hât Drainage Scheme in the 24-Parganas district. It is designed to drain the swamps around Magra Hât in the central portion of the tracts enclosed by the 24-Parganas embankments. The swamps are mainly those along the Kaorapukur khal near Hotar, those drained by the Surjipur sluice, those at Joynagar and along the Srichandra and Sangrampur khals, as well as north of the railway near Sangrampur and at Dhosa and Hobka. A sum of Rs. 3,76,955 was expended during the year on works, establishment and tools and plant. On the whole, fair progress has been made with the scheme.

Drainage works carried out under the provisions of the Embankment Act, II (B.C) of 1882.

545. In the South-Western Circle, the expenditure during the year was Rs. 9,531, principally on the construction of sluices at Lowjola and Lokenathpur in the Murshidabad district, and at Toperkhal and Khoniady in the district of Midnapore. In the Orissa Circle, the Argowal Drainage Project was in progress during the year. The sluice was practically completed, and about three-fourths of the earthwork done. The total expenditure to end of the year amounted to Rs. 89,059 for works only, the outlay of the year being Rs. 46,570. This scheme is now in operation.

Maintenance and Repairs.

546. The Charrial Khal Drainage Scheme was maintained in good condition at a cost of Rs. 1,596 as compared with Rs. 1,902 in the previous year. A large number of sluices in the Schedule D Embankments are maintained under the provisions of the Act at the cost of the estates benefited.

Drainage works carried out at the cost of Government, but not under the provisions of any Act.

547. Work in connection with the improvement of the drainage channel from Daudpur to Utterpadima, known as the Tajpur Drainage Project, in the Contai subdivision of the Balasore Division, was completed during the year.

The Bullee Bhil drainage works in the 24-Parganas district were efficiently maintained at a cost of Rs. 3,969. In the Midnapore district, the Balliaghai main and branch drains, which are used both for drainage and navigation, were kept open to traffic throughout the year. The condition of the main drain has deteriorated, and an estimate for silt-clearing is under preparation. The khas tahsil khals in charge of this Department in the same district were cleared of silt at a cost of Rs. 9,637.

CHAPTER V.—REVENUE AND FINANCE.

Gross Revenue.

548. The following statement shows the gross revenue (*i.e.*, the total of Imperial, Provincial and Local Revenues) for 1907-1908, as compared with that for 1906-1907 :— Gross Revenue.

(The figures are in thousands.)

Receipts.	1906-1907.				1907-1908.			
	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.	Imperial.	Provincial.	Local.	Total.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Principal Heads of Revenue—								
Land Revenue ...	1,14,84	1,74,21	...	2,89,05	1,13,62	1,78,39	...	2,92,01
Opium	7,42,13	...	...	7,42,13	6,69,21	...	...	6,69,21
Salt	1,60,89	...	...	1,60,89	1,07,89	...	...	1,07,89
Stamps	73,53	73,53	...	1,47,06	77,94	77,94	...	1,55,88
Excise ...	80,41	80,41	...	1,60,82	85,39	85,39	...	1,70,78
Provincial Rates ...	...	36,18	34,96	71,14	Nil	37,78	36,41	74,19
Customs	1,92,89	...	...	1,92,89	2,27,92	...	...	2,27,92
Assessed Taxes ...	24,87	24,33	...	49,20	25,99	25,98	...	51,97
Forests	5,33	5,33	...	10,66	5,99	5,99	...	11,98
Registrations	...	12,26	...	12,26	...	13,47	...	13,47
Tributes	33	...	...	33	29	...	...	29
Total ...	13,95,22	4,06,25	34,96	18,36,43	13,14,24	4,24,94	36,41	17,75,59
Interest	13,28	2,62	35	16,25	13,74	3,50	34	17,58
Total ...	13,28	2,62	35	16,25	13,74	3,50	34	17,58
Receipts by Civil Department—								
Law and Justice—								
Courts of Laws ...	...	5,74	...	5,74	...	5 80	...	5,80
Jails	...	12,08	...	12,08	...	11,59	...	11,59
Police	...	1,39	8,68	10,07	...	1,41	8,78	10,19
Marine	...	15,39	...	15,39	...	14,91	...	14,91
Education	...	5,60	53	6,13	...	5,56	44	6,00
Medical	...	2,43	37	2,80	...	2,39	51	2,90
Scientific and other Minor Departments.	...	2,82	21	3,03	...	2,77	29	3,06
Total ...	...	45,45	9,84	55,29	...	44,43	10,02	54,45
Miscellaneous—								
Receipts in aid of Superannuation.	1,63	63	...	2,26	1,94	4,16	...	6,10
Stationery and Printing ...	...	135	1	1,36	...	1,33	1	1,34
Miscellaneous ...	66	6,50	1,31	8,47	73	5,86	1,50	8,09
Total ...	2,29	8,48	1,32	12,09	2,67	11,35	1,51	15,53
Irrigation—								
Major Works (direct receipts).	...	22,98	...	22,98	...	23,81	...	23,81
Minor Works and Navigation—								
By Public Works Department.	...	6,60	...	6,60	...	6,53	...	6,53
By Civil Department ...	...	1,19	8	1,27	...	1,07	6	1,13
Total ...	...	30,77	8	30,85	...	31,41	6	31,47
Building and Roads—								
Military Works ...	2	...	...	2	...	...	...	...
Civil Works—								
By Public Works Department.	77	3,20	...	3,97	...	3,41	...	3,41
By Civil Department ...	...	1,81	4,39	6,20	...	1,77	5,31	7,08
Total ...	79	5,01	4,39	10,19	...	5,18	5,31	10,49
Contributions ...	...	4,99	26,26	31,25	...	99	18,98	19,97
Grand Total ...	14,11,58	5,03,57	77,20	19,92,35	13,30,65	5,21,80	72,63	19,25,08

The chief variations are explained in the sections on Imperial and Provincial Finance.

Imperial Revenue and Finance.

Receipts.

549. The following statement shows Imperial receipts in 1907-1908, as compared with those of 1906-1907 :—

Major Heads.	1906-1907.	1907-1908.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
I.—Land Revenue ...	1,14,83,808	1,13,61,671	...	1,22,137
II.—Opium ...	7,42,12,555	6,69,21,112	...	72,91,443
III.—Salt	1,60,88,611	1,07,88,882	...	52,99,729
IV.—Stamps ...	73,53,349	77,94,138	4,40,789	...
V.—Excise ...	80,40,696	85,38,849	4,98,153	...
VII.—Customs ...	1,92,88,589	2,27,91,778	35,03,189	...
VIII.—Assessed Taxes ...	24,33,631	25,98,503	1,64,872	...
IX.—Forests ...	5,32,930	5,98,825	65,895	...
XI.—Tributes ...	33,150	28,675	...	4,475
XII.—Interest ...	13,28,040	13,73,882	45,842	...
XXII.—Receipts in aid of superannuation.	1,63,155	1,93,536	30,381	...
XXV.—Miscellaneous ...	66,388	73,049	6,661	...
Total ...	14,10,24,902	13,30,62,900	47,55,782	1,27,17,784

The several increases and decreases shown in the above table are accounted for mainly by the causes given below:—*Stamps*—The increase is mainly attributed to larger resort to Civil Courts, to the payment of a larger amount of duty in probate and letters of administration cases in Calcutta, to the gradual development of survey and settlement operations and to the execution of a larger number of deeds due to high prices of food-grains and failure of harvest and growth of trade in Calcutta ; *Excise*—Favourable settlements owing to keen competition among bidders and to increase in duty in country spirits, larger receipts from *tari* and increased consumption of licit opium in consequence of the reduction in the retail prices ; *Customs*—Increase in import duty chiefly under liquors, metals, oils and cotton goods, while the export duty on rice fell owing to poor harvest ; *Assessed Taxes*—Careful assessment, rapid growth of trade and increased commercial prosperity, specially in Calcutta, flourishing state of the coal and mica industries and the trade in lac, in the Chota Nagpur Division ; *Forests*—Larger receipts from timber in the Sundarbans, Singhbhum, Tista and Kurseong Divisions ; *Interest*—Realization from the Port Commissioners of interest on temporary loan of 50 lakhs for six months and penal interest on Kidderpore Dock loan ; *Superannuation*—Increased net proceeds of the Orphangunge market at Kidderpore ; *Miscellaneous*—Larger receipts on account of percentage chargeable on European stores for Provincial and Local Funds ; *Land Revenue*—Larger remissions and suspensions owing to bad harvests and assignments from the Imperial Revenues for Police Reforms and Famine Relief Fund ; *Opium*—Sale of a smaller number of chests at a lower average price ; *Salt*—Reduction in the rate of duty from Re. 1-8 to Re. 1 per maund ; *Tributes*—Non-realization for the second half-year from the States of Patna and Gangpur.

Expenditure.

550. The following statement shows Imperial expenditure in 1907-1908, as compared with 1906-1907:—

Major Heads.	1906-1907.	1907-1908.	Increase.	Decrease.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
1.—Refunds and Drawbacks...	7,60,839	6,70,548	...	90,291
2.—Assignments and compensations.	1,40,764	1,12,937	...	27,827
3.—Land Revenue ...	10,09,111	9,20,810	...	88,301
4.—Opium	2,86,23,673	2,49,65,876	...	36,57,797
5.—Salt	3,30,724	3,57,243	26,519	...
6.—Stamps	2,04,010	2,04,977	967	...
7.—Excise	3,71,560	3,86,512	14,952	...
9.—Customs	11,01,007	10,87,118	...	13,889
10.—Assessed Taxes ...	75,115	76,496	1,381	...
11.—Forests	3,16,245	2,82,601	...	33,644
14.—Interest on other obligations.	15,229	17,084	1,855	...
18.—General Administration ...	2,61,022	2,83,867	22,845	...
23.—Ecclesiastical ...	2,11,589	2,16,417	4,828	...
25.—Political	5,080	10,818	5,738	...
26.—Scientific and other Minor Departments.	41,357	34,673	...	6,684
27.—Territorial and Political Pensions.	8,70,605	8,55,761	...	14,844
29.—Superannuation ...	41,024	38,132	...	2,892
32.—Miscellaneous ...	16,253	16,796	543	...
33.—Famine Relief ...	...	6,73,520	6,73,520	...
45.—Civil Works ..	5,000	5,000	...	...
Total ...	3,44,00,207	3,12,17,186	7,53,148	39,36,169

The principal increases and decreases are explained as follows:—*Salt*—Adjustment for the first time of charandars' fees under this head instead of under Customs and larger expenditure on repairs to steam-launches; *Excise*—Payment of grain compensation allowance; *General Administration*—Change of officers and revision of establishment; *Political*—Expenditure in connection with the deportation of Lala Lajpat Rai and Ajit Sing to Burma; *Famine Relief*—Expenditure incurred in Darbhanga; *Refunds and Drawbacks*—Smaller refunds of Salt and Customs duties; *Assignments and Compensations*—There was a special payment in 1906-1907, on account of compensation for compromising the suit of Nehal Sing against the Secretary of State claiming a portion of the Damin-i-koh Government estate; *Land Revenue*—Smaller expenditure under Survey and Settlement operations; *Opium*—Smaller payments to cultivators owing to smaller outturn; *Forests*—Smaller payment on account of the share of the Raja of Porahat in Singhbhum and non-adjustment of Survey charges of the Sundarbans; *Scientific and other Minor Departments*—Smaller expenditure in the Veterinary Department; *Territorial and Political pensions*—Savings under Nizamut family due to lapses and the pension for three months due to Raja Mokunda Deb not having been drawn.

Land Revenue.

[*See* Chapter II of this Report.]

Canal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter IV of this Report, Canals.]

Sources of Revenue other than Land.

CUSTOMS.

[Customs Administration Report, 1907-1908, also called the Report on the Maritime Trade of Bengal for the year 1907-1908. Statistics of British India, Part II—Commercial.]

Revenue from Customs.

551. The gross total revenue was Rs. 337·18 lakhs, representing a fall of 5·6 per cent., as compared with the previous year, and the net revenue, after deducting refunds and drawback, amounted to Rs. 332·06 lakhs, showing a decrease of 5·4 per cent. The amount includes Rs. 5·80 lakhs, paid as duty into district treasuries on salt imported into Calcutta but cleared from inland bonded warehouses. There was a decrease of over 53 lakhs in the salt revenue, due to the reduction of the salt duty from Re. 1-8 to Re. 1 per maund with effect from the 20th March 1907. The receipts from the export duty on rice also fell from Rs. 11·24 lakhs to Rs. 7·07 lakhs, owing to a diminished export trade consequent on a poor harvest. The import revenue from sources other than salt, however, showed an increase of 40·79 lakhs of rupees, to which liquors, metals, oils and cotton goods chiefly contributed.

Net income.

552. The net income of the Calcutta Custom House amounted to Rs. 3,19,68,629, against Rs. 3,36,28,443 in 1906-1907, representing a decrease of nearly 5 per cent. The net income of the subordinate ports (Cuttack, Puri and Balasore) was Rs. 36,535, against Rs. 1,53,204 in 1906-1907. The decrease is attributed to the small exports of rice and paddy due to the comparative failure of the crops.

Cases under the Sea Customs Act.

553. In the year, 170 cases of infringement of the Customs Law and Rules were disposed of against 278 in the previous year. The decrease is attributed to the system of scrutiny by the appraisers of bills of entry before payment of duty. The number included six cases of exporting birds' skins and feathers in which penalties to the extent of Rs. 8,923 were imposed in addition to confiscation. In spite of these penalties, however, this lucrative trade is said to continue.

Merchandise Marks Act.

554. The number of cases dealt with under the Merchandise Marks Act was 394 against 403 in the previous year. Of these, 198 cases related to offences of false trade descriptions. The majority of such cases came from Germany, the commonest offence being the marking of goods in a manner indicative of British origin without any counter-indication.

The aggregate amount of penalties levied was Rs. 3,140.

Administrative.

555. Excepting the opening of an "Executive Audit" branch for the examination and final clearance of ships' manifests and the documents connected therewith, no changes of importance were made during the year in the internal work of the Custom House.

OPIUM.

[Report on the Administration of the Opium Department, 1906-1907. Statistics of British India, Part IV, Financial (Revenue).]

Settlements.

556. In the Bihar Agency, the land engaged for poppy cultivation during the opium year (November 1906 to October 1907) was 320,781 bighas, as compared with 338,020 bighas in the previous year; but the area actually cultivated was 283,379 bighas, against 327,640 bighas in 1905-1906. During the special year 1907-1908, 201,981 bighas were actually cultivated.

In the Benares Agency 631,232 bighas were settled, against 643,726 in the preceding year. The area actually cultivated during the financial year 1907-1908 was, however, 590,842 bighas, or a decrease of 29,115 bighas, as compared with the previous year.

Climatic conditions.

557. The season was very unfavourable to the production of good opium in the Bihar Agency. Rain was general and fairly heavy at the beginning, but the weather was very unsettled afterwards, and this seriously affected the yield and also the consistence of the drug. In the Benares Agency the earlier part of the season was practically rainless, and the excessive rain which followed did much harm, specially in the eastern poppy tracts of the Agency.

Outturn.

558. The outturn of opium in the two Agencies taken together was decreased by 14,093 maunds, or by 13 per cent. in the year under report. This decrease was shared by both Agencies, and was due partly to the smaller

area sown and partly to the unfavourable weather which prevailed. The general average gross produce per bigha in the Bihar and Benares Agencies, as compared with that of the preceding year, fell from 3 seers 3 kachas to 2 seers 14 chitaks and 3 kachas in the Bihar Agency, and from 5 seers 1 chitak to 4 seers and 14 chitaks in the Benares Agency.

Consistence.

559. The general average of the consistence of the drug delivered in Bihar was 72·69°, which is below the average of the preceding year by 1·99°. The Benares average was also lower, viz., 67·35° against 68·69° in the previous year. This result was due to the unsettled weather in both the Agencies.

In view of the fact that poppy cultivation has been dwindling in Bihar and of the consequent reduction in the supply of high class opium, a question was raised whether it would not be proper to assimilate into one the different standard consistences of the Bihar and Benares opium. After considering several suggestions for the future manufacture of provision opium, it was decided that the Patna factory should continue to manufacture as much provision opium as it can at a consistence of 75°.

Advances to cultivators.

560. The value of opium delivered in the Bihar Agency was Rs. 51,15,255, but the advances made to cultivators for this opium amounted to Rs. 53,73,132, or Rs. 2,57,877 in excess of the value of opium. Of this sum, Rs. 2,36,317 were recovered, leaving a balance of Rs. 21,560 as due to Government at the end of the year, which, when added to the balance of the previous year, amounts to Rs. 22,305.

In Benares the value of the opium delivered was Rs. 1,71,98,043. The payments made to cultivators for this opium aggregated Rs. 1,74,43,105, or Rs. 2,45,062 in excess of the value of opium. Rupees 2,43,668 were recovered, and the balance due to Government is Rs. 1,394, which together with the balance outstanding on account of the previous year (*i.e.*, Rs. 1,014) amount to Rs. 2,408.

Financial.

561. The total proceeds from the sale of chests of provision opium during the official year 1907-1908 amounted to Rs. 6,60,29,825, against Rs. 7,34,32,575 in the previous year. The average prices realized for a chest were Rs. 1,368 for Bihar and Rs. 1,333 for Benares opium, against Rs. 1,439 and Rs. 1,343, respectively, in the previous year. The average cost per chest was Rs. 505 in the last official year. The net revenue derived from opium was Rs. 4,47,20,294, against Rs. 4,80,97,317.

Forty-eight thousand and nine hundred chests were sold during the year at an average price of Rs. 1,350 per chest, against 52,800 chests sold in the previous year at an average price of Rs. 1,391 per chest.

Reserves.

562. The total number of chests of provision opium manufactured during the season 1907-1908 was 40,001, showing an increase of 1,875 chests over the outturn of the previous year. This quantity added to the number remaining from the stock of 1906-1907, viz., 26,132, brings the total number available for sale during 1909 to 66,133. From this stock after the sales of 1909, there will remain a reserve of 22,933 chests on the 1st January 1910. In addition to this stock there were more than 15,000 maunds of unmanufactured opium in the vats at the factories.

Administrative.

563. In consequence of the reduction in cultivation, the Sub-Agency charges of Hazaribagh, Bettiah and Chapra in Bihar and Sitapur in the Benares Agency have been abolished, and the areas appertaining to these Sub-Agencies in which cultivation has been maintained have been included in adjoining charges.

The further reduction of the areas settled for opium cultivation in Bihar by nearly 85,000 bighas, which, under the orders of the Government of India, was made in the settlements of July to September 1907, was the most important work of the year.

SALT.

[Salt Administration Report, 1907-1908. Statistics of British India, Part IV, Financial (Revenue).]

Administrative changes.

564. During the year certain proposals for amendment of the Indian Salt Act of 1882 and the repeal of the Bengal Act of 1864 received the consideration of this Government. The matter has been referred for the decision of the Government of India.

Salt Bonding arrangements.

565. The Government also received during the year the matured recommendations of the Collector of Customs, Calcutta, and the Board of Revenue, as to selecting a site for providing new accommodation for the storage of salt in lieu of the accommodation to be vacated in the Kidderpore Dock golas in consequence of the development of the Docks. The proposals of this Government, involving an additional expenditure of 19 lakhs for the construction of new golas, have since the close of the year been submitted to the Government of India.

Reorganization of the Salt Department.

566. The Commissioner of Salt submitted a report on the result of working the measures for the improvement of the Bengal Salt Department which had been sanctioned for a period of three years; and an application has been made to the Government of India for continued sanction to retain the existing Salt Preventive establishment pending the settlement of the scheme for formation of an amalgamated Salt and Excise establishment.

Rebate of duty on salt used for fish-curing.

567. On the application of a company which is being formed to develop the sea-fishing industry in the Bay of Bengal on the lines indicated in Mr. K. G. Gupta's Report on the Fisheries of Bengal, the Government of India sanctioned a rebate of duty on salt used for fish-curing, subject to the conditions that the concessionaires should pay for the cost of any Preventive establishment that might be found necessary, and that the rebate to be allowed should not exceed the duty payable on the salt used in fish-curing.

Chinese Salt Mission.

568. The Chinese officials, who came to Calcutta during the year to study the salt system obtaining in Bengal, visited the Calcutta Salt Golas and were given such information as they required.

Imports of salt.

569. There was a continued increase both in the quantity of salt imported into Bengal by sea during the year, and also in the imports of Madras salt by land into Orissa. The transactions in salt at the Sulkea and Kidderpore Dock golas were the highest on record.

Consumption.

570. The quantity of salt which passed into consumption in the Province during the year amounted to 8,281,916 maunds, against 7,894,200 maunds in the previous year. The average rate of consumption per head works out at $16\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., or an increase of $1\frac{1}{2}$ lbs., over the rate in the previous year due to the reduction of duty.

Prices.

571. The reduction of duty with effect from the 20th March 1907 also resulted in a decrease of 6 annas and 10 pies in the Provincial average of the wholesale prices per maund at district head-quarters in the year under report, as compared with the previous year. This decrease of price is similar to the decrease of 6 annas 6 pies per maund, which occurred in the first year (1905-1906) following the reduction in the rate of duty from Rs. 2 to Re. 1-8, and a further decrease of price is expected in the current year, such as will secure to the wholesale purchaser and to the public the full benefit of the reduction in duty from Re. 1-8 to Re. 1. Retail prices in the Province also show an average decline from one anna and one pie a seer in 1906-1907 to 11 pies a seer in 1907-1908.

Prosecutions.

572. There was a large decrease in the number of seizures of illicit salt and in the number of prosecutions under the Salt Laws during the year. In the district of the 24-Parganas, the number of cases under section 9 of Act XII of 1882 fell from 139 to 38. This satisfactory decrease in the number of offences is attributed by the Commissioner of Salt to "the cheapening of licit salt, the adequate supply of salt in every market, the opening of new shops in various localities, and the constant patrol over the saline areas."

Fiscal results.

573. The financial results of the year show a net revenue of over 104 lakhs of rupees, which is 33·3 per cent. lower than that of the previous year. This decrease is accounted for chiefly by the reduction of duty; but there was also a small falling off in the amount of salt cleared during the year. The charges amounted to Rs. 3,88,359, showing a decrease of 20·3 per cent.

Trade in saltpetre in Bengal.

574. The quantity of salt educed in the manufacture of saltpetre during the year and removed on payment of duty from all the refineries in the Province was 18,104 maunds, against 19,576 in the previous year, showing a decrease of 1,472 maunds. The decrease was due to the ordinary fluctuations of trade.

Credit system of payment of duty on salt.

575. Since the close of the year, a Bill to provide for the introduction of the credit system for payment of duty on salt, such as obtains in Madras and Bombay, was introduced in the Council of the Governor-General of India.

Under this system, salt is issued to merchants without requiring them to make immediate payment of the duty, the procedure being that they execute a bond and deposit security, their accounts being made up and settled periodically.

EXCISE.

[Statistics of British India, Part IV, Financial (Revenue).]

Administrative changes.

576. The whole machinery of the Local Excise administration came under examination during the year in consequence of a series of Resolutions in which the Government of India reviewed the various reforms recommended by the Indian Excise Committee. As the result of the discussions, the following measures were adopted during or since the close of the year:—

(1) Triennial instead of annual settlement of *pachwai* shops paying an annual license-fee of over Rs. 200.
(2) Extension of distillery areas in Bihar.
(3) Fixing of maximum prices and issue strengths in the central distillery areas in certain districts of the Patna Division, the Sonthal Parganas, Bhagalpur and Ranchi.
(4) Revision of rates of duty in twelve districts, including Calcutta.
(5) Levy of different rates of duty in urban and rural areas in the districts of the Patna Division (except Shahabad).
(6) Constitution of a distillery area in the district of Ranchi.
(7) Restriction of the limits of retail sale of country liquor.
(8) Abolition of passes for the transport of imported liquor.
(9) Revision of the rates of fees of imported liquor in Railway Refreshment Rooms.

Revenue.

577. The total receipts of the year amount to 170¾ lakhs of rupees, which represent an increase of 10 lakhs of rupees, or 6 per cent. on the figures of the previous year. Country spirit, *ganja* and *opium* account for 94 lakhs of rupees, 26½ lakhs of rupees, and 26¼ lakhs of rupees, or 55 per cent., 15 per cent., and 15 per cent., respectively, of the total revenue of the year. The receipts from country spirit and opium show an increase of 7 lakhs of rupees and 2¾ lakhs of rupees, or 8 per cent. and 11 per cent., respectively, while the receipts from *ganja* show a falling off to the extent of 1·4 per cent. The incidence of taxation per gallon of L.-P. spirit under the Sadar Distillery System was Rs. 5·5, and under the Contract Distillery System, Rs. 4·3, and the average fee for each outstill was Rs. 2,393. The corresponding figures for the preceding year were Rs. 5·5, Rs. 3·7 and Rs. 1,940, respectively, taking the same geographical areas, irrespective of the change of system. Owing to the increase of duty, the difference between the incidence of taxation in areas under the two systems is being removed.

Country spirit.

578. Calcutta was again responsible for more than 25 per cent. of the total revenue from country spirit, the Russa distillery continuing to be the source of supply. There was an increase of 25,897 L.-P. gallons in the consumption of the Russa spirit, accompanied by an increase of 1,942 gallons in the consumption of country rum, the total increase being 8·2 per cent. on the aggregate consumption of country spirit and country rum taken together. This result is attributed chiefly to the fact that the vendors laid in large stocks in March 1908 in anticipation of the increase in duty. It does not appear that the increased consumption has been attended with any increase of drunkenness, the number of convictions for which decreased from 7,042 in 1906-1907 to 6,807 in 1907-1908. Since the close of the year, the following measures have been taken in Calcutta to check consumption, viz., (1) the increase of duty from Rs. 5 to Rs. 5-10 per gallon L.-P., (2) the reduction in the number of shops, and (3) the reduction of the limit of retail sale and possession from 12 to 6 bottles.

Reduction of outstill area.

579. In consequence of the further development of the Contract Distillery System and the extension of the Central Distillery areas in some parts of Bihar and in the district of Ranchi, the outstill area of the Province has been reduced since 1st April 1905 from 71,140 to 60,101 square miles, or by 11,039 square miles. It is proposed to extend the contract system next year to the Monghyr, Bhagalpur, and Purnea districts. The main difficulty of further reducing the outstill area arises from the fact that the people of Bihar and Chota Nagpur

drink a very weak liquor, which cannot be conveyed for long distances. There is a danger that, by introducing the distillery or contract system, the people may be induced to drink a stronger liquor than at present.

Contract Supply System.

580. The main features of the Contract Supply System are the concentration of the preparation of liquor in the hands of a few contractors, the supply of liquor at fixed strengths and prices, and the separation of manufacture and retail vend. The advantages of the System, as stated by the Indian Excise Committee, are that it ensures the supply of liquor at a low and constant price for a specified period, with the result that accurate and profitable taxation is facilitated. The distiller is put in a position to meet the requirements of Government on a definite basis, while the retail vendor can calculate accurately the fee which he can afford for his license. In addition to these advantages, good liquor has been provided at reasonable prices, and the temptation to drink cheap foreign liquors, or to distill liquor privately, has been removed. The System has been gradually introduced since 1905-1906. It appears that in most of the districts in the Contract area, the consumption of country liquor has considerably increased. The reports of the Collectors point to an increase not only in consumption, but in the number of consumers, and they ascribe it partly to the popularity of the new liquor due to its improved quality and cheapness, and to the closer supervision over the vendors. This result appears to have been anticipated by the Indian Excise Committee, who were of opinion that, with improved administration, it would be necessary to raise the duty on liquor, especially in the eastern districts of the Province. This subject has received the constant attention of the Board of Revenue. The rate of duty was raised in ten districts from the beginning of the year, and was raised in two subdivisions of the Burdwan district from the 1st November 1907. The working of the system was reviewed during the year in consultation with the District Officers, and the license fees for the current year were raised. It was decided to await the complete results of the year's working, and to see the effect of the increase of license fees, before raising the rates in any district, and this matter is now under consideration. Meanwhile steps are being taken to increase the price of country liquor in Burdwan, Birbhum, and the Sonthal Parganas.

Imported Liquors.

581. It is reported that consumption has generally increased, and that, in consequence of the prohibition of sales of imported liquor and country spirit in the same shop, imported liquor vendors in some districts who have been deprived of their country spirit licenses have pushed the sale of imported liquor, especially of the most inferior qualities. It appears, however, that the information as to the sales of such liquors is not reliable, and the consumption, except in Calcutta, is small.

Tari.

582. There has been a large increase in *tari* revenue in almost all the districts of the Patna Division, in spite of a reduction in the number of licenses. The district of Patna, however, in which no reduction was made in the number of licenses, show a decrease in receipts. Absence of competition for the licenses is apparently responsible for this result in Patna, and a substantial reduction in the number of licenses in this district as in the other districts of the Division might have given better results.

Pachwai.

583. Six cases of deaths from drinking *pachwai* with which aconite or other poisonous substances were suspected to have been mixed are again reported this year. The records of the cases in which eight persons were reported in the preceding year to have died from the same cause in Birbhum were examined by the Board, but it was found that no action besides cancelling the licenses of the vendors concerned, which had already been done, was called for. Under a condition of his license, a vendor is prohibited from using aconite or any other poisonous substances in the preparation of *pachwai*, and the discovery of any such substance entails the cancellation of his license. This penalty is not sufficiently deterrent. Provision has, therefore, been made in the Excise Bill for imposing an adequate penalty on vendors found guilty of such offences.

Ganja.

584. The decrease of more than a quarter of a lakh of rupees in the license fees realized from *ganja* during the year is attributed to the absence of competition at the annual sales caused by the high price of the drug at Naugaon.

The wholesale price of *ganja* has in recent years varied from Rs. 20 to Rs. 400 per maund, introducing thereby an element of speculation into the trade. The undesirability of such violent fluctuations in the price of an exciseable article was during the year brought to the notice of the Board of Revenue, Eastern Bengal and Assam; and the matter is under consideration. The Excise Commissioner reports that the discontinuance of the importation of Rajshahi *ganja* into Sambalpur and the issue of Khardwa *ganja* alone in that district have led to the smuggling of Garhjat *ganja* on an extensive scale. The information on the subject, however, is not complete. It was believed that the introduction of the Cooch Behar system of supplying *ganja* into the Garhjat States had entirely suppressed the cultivation of *ganja* in those States, and from a report of the Superintendent of Tributary Mahals in Orissa, it appears that there has not been any appreciable revival of illicit cultivation in those Mahals. In his opinion, the *ganja* smuggled is produced in the district of Ganjam in the Madras Presidency. The subject of the illicit cultivation of *ganja* in Ganjam and its smuggling into the bordering districts of Orissa has been brought to the notice of the Madras Government; and the Board of Revenue, Madras, have promised to cause a thorough investigation to be made in the matter.

585. There was a large increase in the sale of opium during the year. The great increase of 193 maunds 31 seers in Calcutta is attributed by the Superintendent of Excise Revenue, Calcutta, to the activity of smuggling operations in Rangoon and in Burma generally. Several important cases of opium smuggling were detected during the year. The suggestions recently made by the Government of Burma as to the measures which should be adopted to check smuggling of opium into that Province are under consideration. It may be mentioned in this connection that during the year arrangements were made with the East Indian Railway, the Eastern Bengal State Railway and the Bengal-Nagpur Railway authorities to allow excise officers to examine the parcel registers at their railway stations, when necessary, with a view to ascertain the names of the consignors and consignees of suspected parcels. The consent of the Inspector-General of Prisons, Bengal, was also obtained to officers of the Excise Department of rank not below that of a Sub-Inspector, being allowed permission to interrogate any prisoner in the jail in connection with opium and excise cases. Since the close of the year, rules have been framed with a view to keeping the Opium Agents better informed by the Excise Department of cases of smuggling of opium from districts within their respective Agencies, in order that they may trace the indentity of the prisoner and the source from which the illicit supplies were obtained. Opium.

The consumption of opium in the districts of Cuttack, Angul, Puri and Sambalpur shows an increase, in spite of an increase of the treasury prices; while in Balasore, there was a decrease of 24 maunds. The increase in Cuttack and Sambalpur is attributed partly to increased supplies taken by the Feudatory States, while the decrease in Balasore is said to be due to smaller supplies being taken for the same States.

The Excise Commissioner again brings to notice the increase in the habit of opium-smoking in Calcutta and in Orissa. He quotes the opinion of the Superintendent of Excise Revenue, Calcutta, that the opium dens continue to flourish and multiply, and that, in consequence of the difficulties in the way of Excise Officers getting access to such places, opium-smoking is more freely indulged in than when these premises were under Government control. The licensing of shops for the manufacture and sale of *madak* and *chandu* was abandoned in this Province from the 1st April 1896, as the result of a recommendation of the Royal Commission on Opium. Since then, the aggregate quantity of opium preparations or admixtures that may be possessed by a party of smokers has been limited to five tolas, with the object of enabling the Excise and Police Officers to deal with evasions of the Opium Rules by members of opium-smoking clubs. In 1903, the Board, after consulting the Commissioner of Excise, reported to Government that the rules restricting the possession of preparations or admixtures of opium by individuals to one tola and by a party of smokers to five tolas were working successfully, and that the suppression of the smoking of *madak* and *chandu* was a matter of preventive action, and could only be effected gradually. A reversion to the

old system of licensing premises for opium-smoking will not be possible, except upon the clearest evidence of the failure of the policy adopted upon the recommendation of the Opium Commission. A separate report on the subject will be called for by the Board from the Excise Commissioner.

Cocaine.

586. It is satisfactory to find evidence of the success of the measures taken to suppress the illicit traffic in cocaine. The drug is now chiefly smuggled into Calcutta by lascars on board the vessels trading between Europe and India.

Offences.

587. There was an increase in the number of persons convicted during the year, especially under the head of "Illicit distillation of country liquors" (467 persons against 293). There was a corresponding decrease of offences under the *pachwai* regulations, owing, it is said, to a growing taste for the improved country spirit. The returns are swollen by a considerable increase under the head of other offences (104 against 8) due to conviction in the 24-Parganas of persons smuggling Russa liquor into the contract area. The increased number of conviction for illicit distillation is not held to be an indication of the prevalence of such practices. It was due to the special activity of the Excise staff in particular areas.

STAMP.

[Statistical information for the Stamp Department, 1907-1908. Statistics of British India, Part IV.—Financial (Revenue.)]

Changes in the Law and Rules issued by the Government and the Board.

588. Stamp revenue during the past triennium was realized under the Indian Stamp Act, 1899 (II of 1899), and the Court-fees Act, VII of 1870, as amended by subsequent enactments. During the period, Act VI of 1905 and Act V of 1906 were passed, amending the Court-fees Act, 1870, and the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, respectively. In exercise of the powers conferred by section 5 of the Scheduled Districts Act (XIV of 1874), and with the previous sanction of the Government of India, the Government of Bengal extended the Court-fees Act, 1870 (VII of 1870), to the Kolhan in the Singhbhum district of the Chota Nagpur Division. Under the orders of the Government of India, the sale of one anna revenue stamps was stopped with effect from the 1st October 1905, and till the new unified stamps were received, one-anna and half-anna postage stamps were utilized both for postal purposes and for the payment of stamp duty in cases in which one-anna adhesive stamps are required under the provisions of the Indian Stamp Act, 1899. The grant of discount at the rate of a quarter anna in the rupee hitherto allowed on the sale of postage stamps and postal stationery by postal officers, licensed vendors of general stamps and other persons specially authorized in that behalf, was discontinued with effect from the 1st April 1907. In place of rule 26 of the rules framed under sections 27 and 34 of the Court-fees Act, VII of 1870, as amended by Act XII of 1891, a new rule was substituted in which it was provided that Collectors may, in special cases, allow refunds when application is made within one year from the date of purchase of the stamps or labels, or, also in the case of impressed Court-fee stamps, within one year from the date on which the stamps were spoiled or rendered useless, the limit of time hitherto observed in all cases of the kind being six months only so far as the Collectors were concerned. Under the provisions of section 50, sub-sections (2) and (3), and sections 52 and 54 of the Indian Stamp Act, 1899, the Collector can only grant refunds or renewals in respect of non-judicial stamps, on application being made to him within six months from the date of the different contingencies contemplated therein. Under the orders of Government, the Collectors have been authorized to extend this period to one year.

Stamp Revenue.

589. The revenue collected under both the Stamp and Court-fees Acts during the year 1907-1908 amounted to Rs. 1,51,17,649, and exceeded the receipts of any other year during the triennium, being Rs. 4,10,967 more than in 1906-1907, and Rs. 7,54,687 more than in 1905-1906. The increase of revenue, which amounts to 2·8 per cent. and 5·2 per cent., in the two years, occurred under both judicial and non-judicial stamps. While the receipts under the former head received a set-back in 1906-1907, from which, however, they recovered completely in 1907-1908, the receipts from the sale of non-judicial stamps increased steadily throughout the triennium. There has been a corresponding steady increase in the total charges during the past three years,

although the general result shows an increase in the annual net income. The total charges during 1907-1908 amounted to Rs. 3,69,340, showing an increase of 2·3 and 3·5 per cent. over the figures of 1906-1907 and 1905-1906, respectively. The increased expenditure was due to the larger amount of discount paid to vendors on the increased sales of stamps.

Judicial Stamps.

590. The sale-proceeds of Court-fee stamps (excluding stamps for copies) fell from Rs. 96,13,749 in 1905-1906 to Rs. 94,66,666 in 1906-1907. In the subsequent year (1907-1908), however, they rose again to Rs. 4,06,887. The increase is mainly attributed to larger resort to the Civil Courts, to the payment of a larger amount of duty in probate and letters of administration cases in Calcutta, and to the gradual development of survey and settlement operations. The enquiries held by Revenue officers under section 19H (3) of the Court-fees Act, VII of 1870, as amended by Act XI of 1899, have led to more careful valuations by applicants for the grant of probates and letters of administration. There was an increase in the receipts from the sale of stamps for copies and a slight decrease in the sale of plain paper. The total receipts under the former head amounted to Rs. 5,65,756 against Rs. 5,54,846 in 1906-1907, and Rs. 5,27,721 in 1905-1906. Under the latter head, the total receipts amounted to Rs. 1,93,282, showing a decrease of Rs. 499 as compared with the receipts of 1906-1907, and an increase of Rs. 8,826 as compared with the receipts of 1905-1906. The increase under the head of "Miscellaneous Receipts", as compared with the years 1906-1907 and 1905-1906, was due to the fact that Court-fee stamps worth Rs. 8,000 were required for a probate in the district of Purnea.

Non-Judicial Stamps.

591. Non-judicial stamps show an increase of Rs. 3,39,074, or 8·5 per cent., when compared with 1906-1907. The increase was shared by all classes of stamps.

The receipts from the sale of *impressed stamps* during 1907-1908 were Rs. 24,82,943, exceeding those of 1906-1907 and 1905-1906 by Rs. 1,60,601 and Rs. 3,99,845, respectively. The largest increase occurred in Calcutta, and is attributed to the growth of trade. In other districts, the increase is generally ascribed to the increase in the number of deeds executed owing to the failure of harvests and the higher prices of food-grains. The revenue derived from the sale of *hundi* or bill-of-exchange stamps during 1907-1908 was Rs. 1,62,419, showing an increase of Rs. 12,860 as compared with 1906-1907 and Rs. 27,997 as compared with 1905-1906. Receipts from the sale of impressed labels which are used only in Calcutta were Rs. 11,17,810, which exceeded those of 1906-1907 and 1905-1906 by Rs. 79,269 and Rs. 1,51,158, or by 7·6 per cent. and 15·6 per cent., respectively. The increase is attributed to the growth of trade and the increasing popularity of this class of stamps in Calcutta.

The Sale of Stamps.

592. The total number of vendors engaged in the sale of judicial and non-judicial stamps during the year 1907-1908 was 2,884, showing a decrease, as compared with the previous two years, of 94 and 103 persons, respectively.

Deficient duty.

593. The number of cases in which deficient duty and penalty were levied by the Courts during the last year of the triennium was 1,724 in comparison with 1,342 in 1906-1907 and 1,431 in 1905-1906. There was an advance of Rs. 2,515 in the duty and penalty realized by the Civil Courts in comparison with the realizations of the preceding year, and of Rs. 287 in comparison with those of 1905-1906. The increase in the number of cases is probably due to a more careful examination of documents by Civil Courts. There was an increase of 72 in the number of cases decided, but a decrease of Rs. 12,965 in the duty and penalty realized by Revenue officers as compared with the figures of the preceding year, and a decrease of 50 in the number of cases decided, but an increase of Rs. 4,609 in the duty and penalty realized, in comparison with 1905-1906. This is due to variations in the amount of consideration for which transactions were effected by the contracting parties.

Prosecution under the Stamp Act.

594. The number of cases instituted for breaches of the provisions of the Stamp Act was 567, in which 579 persons were brought to trial, against 1,086 cases and 1,086 persons in the preceding year, and 667 cases and 650 persons in the year 1905-1906. The fines imposed amounted to Rs. 4,429 against Rs. 6,388 in 1906-1907 and Rs. 5,701 in 1905-1906.

The amount distributed in rewards was Rs. 4,351, against Rs. 5,805 and Rs. 3,173, respectively, in the preceding years. The number of persons convicted was 570, and the average fine imposed was less than Rs. 8. The adequacy of punishments inflicted has not been discussed by Divisional Commissioners, but these figures would appear to point to some leniency in the sentences passed. Outside Calcutta, rewards are practically never given.

The increased activity in the prosecution of offences against the Stamp Act resulted in complaints in Calcutta. In 1906, the Board received from the Marwari Association, Calcutta, a representation stating that the provisions of the General Stamp Act relating to unstamped documents and insufficiently stamped documents were harshly worked in Calcutta to the serious inconvenience of the up-country trading community. The Association alleged that existing members of firms were held responsible for offences against the Stamp Law committed many years ago by their predecessors, that collecting servants of firms were held responsible, that notices requiring explanation did not always reach parties, and that a proper hearing was not always given by the Collector of Stamp Revenue. They complained of the system of giving rewards to informers in stamp cases as holding out temptation to dishonest persons, and they urged that the penalty imposed should vary according to the gravity of the offence, and that individuals should not be made to suffer for acts of which they were morally innocent.

Having carefully considered all the matters urged by the Association, the Board came to the decision that the Collector should exercise special caution in instituting proceedings in the case of old documents. Whatever be the legal liability, the Board considered it reasonable to refrain from prosecuting members of a firm or from requiring them to compound under section 70 of the Act, for offences committed by previous members of a firm with which they had no connection.

Working of section 19H, added to the Court fees Act by Act XI of 1899.

595. The valuation of estates in respect of which letters of administration and probates had been applied for during the year ending the 31st March 1908 was tested by Collectors, with the result that the number of cases reported fell off in 1907-1908 as compared with the preceding years. The amount of deficit duty realized fell from Rs. 15,819-11 in 1905-1906 to Rs. 8,980-4 in 1906-1907, but rose again to Rs. 11,251-12 in 1907-1908.

No case of serious under-valuation was discovered during the triennium.

INCOME-TAX.

[Statistical information regarding the Income-tax Department for 1907-1908, and Resolution of the Board of Revenue thereon. Statistics of British India, Part IV.—Financial (Revenue).]

Financial results.

596. The receipts, charges, and net revenue derived from the collection of income-tax during the year 1907-1908 were, respectively, Rs. 51,98,644, Rs. 1,67,478, and Rs. 50,31,166. The increase in the net revenue during the year was 7 per cent. as compared with 1906-1907, and 11·9 per cent. as compared with 1905-1906.

Assessment and Collections.

597. The number of persons assessed and the amount of tax collected show an increase of 2,017 persons and Rs. 3,22,199 over the figures of the previous year. The increase was obtained from all the main classes of assessees. Calcutta alone contributed 61·6 per cent. of the increase, the result being attributed to the greater prosperity of the jute, coal and banking business, to the formation of new Companies, to increase of establishment on the railways and in mercantile offices, and to larger issues of debentures.

The percentage of tax collected under each part on the total amount of tax collected during the year was as follows:—

Part	I.—Salaries	16·2
,,	II.—Profits of Companies	20·1
,,	III.—Interest on securities	2·4
,,	IV.—Other sources	61·3

The total number of assessees in the lowest class (*i.e.*, incomes of from Rs. 1,000 to Rs. 1,250) shows an increase of 76 and 45 persons, as compared with the figures of the preceding two years; and the amount of tax collected shows an increase of Rs. 717 as compared with 1906-1907, and a decrease of Rs. 170 as compared with 1905-1906. The fluctuations in the assessments in the lowest class do not indicate a tendency on the part of the assessing staff to bring under assessment, without adequate investigation, those who were exempted on the raising of the taxable minimum in 1903.

Outstanding balances.

598. The outstanding balance on account of tax, penalties and costs for the year was Rs. 1,87,649 against Rs. 1,58,769 in 1906-1907.

Forest Revenue.

Report on the Forest Administration on the Province of Bengal for 1907-1908.

Receipts and Expenditure.

599. The total revenue during the year was Rs. 11,66,700 and the total expenditure Rs. 7,10,309, thus leaving a net revenue of Rs. 4,56,391.

The revenue increased by 6·6 per cent. as compared with the previous year, while the increase in expenditure was 17·15 per cent. No division except the Chaibassa Division, which was created to secure better management of the Protected Forests in Singhbhum, was worked at a loss.

Provincial Finance.

600. The following statement shows the actual receipts and charges on account of Provincial Services for 1907-1908, as compared with those of 1906-1907:— Provincial Finance.

Receipts.	Actuals, 1906-1907.	Actuals, 1907-1908.	Expenditure.	Actuals, 1906-1907.	Actuals, 1907-1908.
	Rs.	Rs.		Rs.	Rs.
Opening balance	1,12,61,898	93,84,443	Direct demand on the revenues—		
			1. Refunds and Drawbacks ...	1,16,578	1,51,195
			2. Assignments and Compensations.	69,324	63,019
Principal Heads of Revenue—			3. Land Revenue	35,26,901	40,20,144
			6. Stamps	2,04,010	2,04,977
I.—Land Revenue { Proper ...	1,62,06,515	1,57,41,682	7. Excise	3,71,560	3,86,512
I.—Land Revenue { Adjustments	12,14,548	20,97,634	8. Provincial Rates	55,784	45,282
			10. Assessed Taxes	75,115	76,496
			11. Forests	3,16,244	2,32,601
IV.—Stamps	73,53,349	77,94,137	12. Registration	6,42,687	7,52,153
V.—Excise	80,40,696	85,38,350	Total ...	53,78,203	59,82,379
VI.—Provincial Rates	36,18,246	37,78,437			
VIII.—Assessed Taxes	24 33,631	25,98,503	13. Interest on ordinary debt...	2,36,226	3,02,279
IX.—Forests	5,32,929	5,98,825			
X.—Registration	12,25,432	13,46,556	Salaries and Expenses of Civil Department—		
			18. General Administration ...	18,41,137	18,57,918
Total	4,06,25,346	4,24,94,624	19. Law and Justice { Courts of Law ...	74,09,956	75,60,882
			19. Law and Justice { Jails ...	26,63,436	26,97,564
XII.—Interest	2,62,036	3,49,991	20. Police	69,05,442	73,89,762
			21. Marine	11,74,053	11,55,960
			22. Education	38,50,750	45,49,984
Receipts by Civil Department—			24. Medical	21,96,753	23,41,118
			25. Political...	41,248	45,836
XVII.—Law and Justice—			26. Scientific and other Minor Departments.	9,73,964	10,75,232
Courts of Law	5,73,507	5,79,615			
Jails	12,07,552	11,58,790	Total ...	2,70,56,739	2,85,74,256
XVII.—Police	1,38,965	1,41,084			
XVIII.—Marine	15,29,308	14,90,708			
XIX.—Education	5,60,354	5,56,574	Miscellaneous—		
XX.—Medical	2,43,355	2,38,691	29. Superannuation, etc. ...	24,86,467	25,91,512
XXI.—Scientific and other Minor Departments.	2,82,319	2,76,622	30. Stationery and Printing ...	12,85,202	14,65,903
			32. Miscellaneous...	3,46,620	3,61,442
Total	45,45,360	44,42,084	Total ...	41,18,289	44,18,857
			Famine Relief and Insurance—		
Miscellaneous—			33. Famine Relief...	7,11,138	...
			Reduction or avoidance of debt ...	...	2,60,000
XXII.—Receipts in aid of Superannuation.	62,729	4,15,985	Railways (Revenue Accounts)—		
XXIII.—Stationery and Printing ...	1,34,920	1,32,763	40. Subsidized Companies—Land, etc.	...	3,413
XXV.—Miscellaneous	6,50,180	5,86,423	41. Miscellaneous Railway Expenditure.	...	...
Total	8,47,829	11,35,171	Total ...	7,11,138	2,63,413
Irrigation—			Irrigation—		
XXIX.—Major Works (direct receipts).	22,97,528	23,80,960	42. Major Works—		
			Working expenses ...	11,83,307	14,25,201
			Interest on debt	21,21,310	21,22,848
XXX.—Minor Works and Navigation—			43. Minor Works and Navigation—		
By Public Works Department.	6,60,499	6,52,352	By Public Works Department.	19,06,731	18,77,214
,, Civil Department ...	1,18,688	1,07,147	,, Civil Department ...	10,211	12,680
Total	30,76,715	31,40,949	Total ...	52,27,159	54,37,943
Buildings and Roads—			Buildings and Roads—		
XXXII.—Civil Works—			45. Civil Works—		
By Public Works Department.	3,19,625	3,41,459	By Public Works Department.	66,93,428	72,53,934
,, Civil Department	1,81,234	1,77,012	,, Civil Department ...	1,87,059	4,04,293
Total	5,00,859	5,18,471	Total ...	68,80,487	76,58,227
Contributions	4,98,397	98,518	Contributions ...	26,26,296	18,98,217
Total	5,03,67,082	5,21,79,808	Total ...	5,22,34,537	5,45,35,571
			Closing balance ...	93,84,443	70,28,680
Grand Total	6,16,18,980	6,15,64,251	Grand Total ...	6,16,18,980	6,15,64,251
			Provincial surplus (+) or deficit (-)	+18,77,455	—23,55,763

601. The decrease under *Land Revenue* was chiefly under collections from Government Estates due to remissions and suspensions owing to bad harvests and high prices of food-grains. The increase under *Adjustments* was due to Variations.

special additional grants for Police reforms, for capital expenditure on the Madaripur Bhil route scheme, for the Famine Relief Scheme and on account of remission of Banking and Audit fees. The variations under the heads *Stamps, Excise, Assessed Taxes and Forests*, which are divided equally between Imperial and Provincial, have been explained in the section on Imperial Finance. The increase under *Provincial Rates* was chiefly due to the collection of arrears of Public Works Cess from the Darbhanga Raj, the Tikari Raj and others. The increase under *Registration* was attributed to the increased number of registrations on account of high prices of food-grains and to brisk trade in Calcutta. The increase under *Interest* was distributed among the several heads. The decrease under *Jails* was due to smaller receipts from the sale-proceeds of Jail manufactures; that under *Marine* occurred under Pilotage receipts in the Port of Calcutta; and that under *Scientific and other Minor Departments* was under Emigration fees, owing to a falling off in the number of emigrants. The increase under *Superannuation* was due to the adjustment under this head of the sale-proceeds of the investments belonging to the Calcutta Police Superannuation Fund now abolished. The decrease under *Miscellaneous* was chiefly under unclaimed deposits and partly also under fees for Government audits and contributions owing to the discontinuation of the realization of audit and banking fees from Municipal and Excluded Local Funds with effect from the 1st April 1907. The increase under *Irrigation—Major Works* was due chiefly to a larger demand for water from the Orissa Canals and to the expansion of *rabi* irrigation from the Sone Canals; while that under *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department* was due to larger receipts from the rent of buildings and the Calcutta Strand Banks and Maidan.

Expenditure.

602. The increase under *Refunds* was due to the adjustment of a write-back of Rs. 7,000 credited as Land Revenue in 1906-1907 on account of Government land acquired by the Public Works Department and to a special refund of advance fees for country spirit shops. The decrease under *Assignments* was under Malikana. The increase under *Land Revenue* was distributed under several heads, but was chiefly due to expenditure on the maintenance of the record-of-rights in Orissa, larger expenditure on the managements and improvements of Government Estates and the non-adjustment of survey and settlement charges debitable to private estates. The variations under *Excise and Forests* which are divided in fixed proportions between Provincial and Imperial have been explained in the section on Imperial Finance. The increase under *Registration* was due to larger payments of grain compensation allowance, rent of offices for sub-registrars and the reorganization of the Department; while that under *Interest* was due to the larger outstanding mean balance of Provincial loans. The increase under *General Administration* was due to charges for furnishing the Durbar Hall in Belvedere, to the payment of Calcutta house allowances, heavier expenditure under Tour charges of His Honour and increased charges on account of grain compensation allowance. The increase under *Law and Justice—Courts of Law* was due to the raising of the contract rate of the Government Solicitor, larger payment of fees to Pleaders and Counsel in criminal cases, charges on account of establishment and contingencies of the Municipal Magistrate's Court, which were formerly recovered from the Calcutta Municipality, but are now met from Provincial Revenues, and larger payments of grain allowance. The increase under *Jails* was in dietary charges due to high prices of food-grains, while that under *Police* was due to larger payment of grain allowance and additional Police reforms recommended by the Police Commission. The decrease under *Marine* was chiefly due to smaller expenditure under repairs of vessels and partly under pilotage and pilot establishment. The increase under *Education* was distributed under several heads, but chiefly under grants-in-aid for larger grants to local colleges and schools and partly also for the reorganization of the educational service and larger expenditure on furniture and apparatus in Government colleges. The increase under *Medical* was for larger grants to hospitals and dispensaries and to the payment of grain allowance and additional staff in the Chemical Examiner's Department, while that under *Scientific and other Minor Departments* was due to the gradual expansion of the operations of the Veterinary and Agricultural Departments, and larger expenditure under Gazetteer and Statistical

Memoirs and Registrar of Co-operative Credit Societies on account of special officers employed in those offices. The increase is also due to the inclusion of charges for the maintenance of the gardens of Government House, Hastings House, as well as of the Government gardens in Calcutta. The increase under *Superannuation* was due to the continued growth of expenditure of retired allowances, while that under *Stationery and Printing* was chiefly under stationery supplied from Central stores and partly also under Government Presses. The increase under *Miscellaneous* was chiefly under special commissions of enquiry for expenditure in connection with the Fisheries enquiry. Rupees 2,60,000 shown under the head *Reduction or Avoidance of Debt* represents the adjustment of the assignment to the Provincial Revenues on account of the Famine Relief Scheme. The increase under *Irrigation—Major Works—Working Expenses* was due to larger expenditure on repairs and maintenance necessitated by the floods. The decrease under *Minor Works and Navigation* was for smaller expenditure on the Calcutta and Eastern Canals. The increase under *Civil Works in charge of the Public Works Department* was chiefly under original works, while that of *Civil Department* was due to larger grants to Municipalities, viz., Rs. 51,000 for water-works in Bhagalpur, Rs. 75,000 for drainage in Puri, Rs. 9,000 for drainage in Barasat, Rs. 15,000 for drainage in Baranagar, Rs. 49,416 for drainage of the Calcutta Maidan and Rs. 9,000 for sanitation and water-supply in Balasore. Special grants were made to the District Boards in 1906-1907 for Famine Relief operations, and there was an increase in that year under *Contributions.*

Local Finance.

[Report on Local Funds in Bengal for the year 1907-1908]

603. The following table shows the income, expenditure and the opening and closing balances of the Incorporated Local Funds for the year 1907-1908 :— **Balances.**

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
District Funds	28,22,764	79,38,868	1,07,61,632	79,29,126	28,32,507
District Road Funds ...	1,66,282	2,13,594	3,79,876	2,05,677	1,74,199
Inland Labour Transport Fund	...	14,279	14,279	14,279	...
Steam Boiler Inspection Fund	71,622	67,581	1,39,203	49,022	90,181
Village Chaukidari Funds ...	89,425	3,94,144	4,83,569	3,83,680	99,889
Road Patrol Funds ...	20,150	32,647	52,797	35,239	17,558
District Chaukidari Reward Funds	69,953	40,514	1,10,467	34,011	76,456
Total ...	32,40,196	87,01,627	1,19,41,823	86,51,033	32,90,790

604. The grants made by Government to the District Funds and District Road Funds during the year were Rs. 17,65,365 and Rs. 1,04,381, respectively. Of this, Rs. 5,86,257 represents the allotment to District Boards as grants for establishing an equillibrium between income and expenditure, and Rs. 9,00,558 represents the grant equivalent to a quarter of the revenues derived from Public Works Cess to augment their resources. The total expenditure in in Bengal on account of the Inland Labour Transport Fund amounted to Rs. 20,372, of which Rs. 6,093, representing the excess of payments over receipts, was debited to Assam. The Road Patrol Fund in the district of Palamau received a contribution of Rs. 559. **Grants and changes.**

The transactions of the Excluded Local Funds were as follows:—

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
Police Funds.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Fire brigade	20,037	83,992	1,04,029	97,039	6,990
Foundling Asylum ...	10	3,419	3,429	3,418	11
Railway Police Clothing ...	7,282	6,662	13,944	11,306	2,638
Total ...	27,329	24,073	1,21,402	1,11,763	9,639
Marine Funds.					
Hospital Port Dues (Calcutta)	12,628	86,125	98,753	73,557	25,196
Orissa Ports	8,339	6,527	14,866	17,732	—2,866
Total ...	20,967	92,652	1,13,619	91,289	22,330
Education Funds.					
Hindu College	626	4,752	5,378	4,670	708
Durga Charan Laha's Scholarship.	...	2,823	2,823	2,823	...
Jagiara	29	700	729	703	26
Total ...	655	8,275	8,930	8,196	734
Medical and Charitable Funds.					
Imambara Hospital ...	469	8,299	8,768	8,387	381
Puri Leper Asylum ...	...	381	381	152	229
Pilgrims' Lodging-house ...	68,218	83,118	1,51,336	1,03,119	48,217
Chuni La Seal's Endowment	170	4,245	4,415	3,820	595
Ram Lall Mukerjee's Endowment.	2,475	1,746	4,221	...	4,221
Annochhatra	6,290	12,196	18,486	14,345	4,141
Bengal Famine Orphan ...	2,391	1,112	3,503	2,207	1,296
Joy Gobinda Laha's Fund ...	4,466	4,130	8,596	5,000	3,596
Dispensary Fund (Sambalpur)	604	14,538	15,142	9,346	5,796
Total ...	85,083	1,29,765	2,14,848	1,46,376	68,472
Public Works Funds.					
Khondmal Road ...	169	8,169	8,338	7,085	1,253
Darjeeling Improvement ...	44,852	84,081	1,28,933	94,517	34,416
Total ...	45,021	92,250	1,37,271	1,01,602	35,669
Town and Bazar Funds.					
Kolhan Market Fund ...	1,886	2,916	4,802	594	4,208
Miscellaneous Funds.					
Muhammadan Burial Board ...	1,562	1,909	3,471	1,800	1,671
Zoological Gardens ...	23,839	68,601	92,440	70,342	22,098
Christian Burial Board ...	11,007	22,277	33,284	18,381	14,903
Mohsin Endowment ...	29,515	1,15,870	1,45,385	1,02,751	42,634
Total ...	65,923	2,08,657	2,74,580	1,93,274	81,306

Name of Fund.	Opening balance.	Receipts.	Total.	Payments.	Closing balance.
	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.	Rs.
Cantonment Funds.					
Alipore Cantonment ...	282	2,650	2,932	2,538	394
Dum-Dum ,, ...	2,745	22,863	25,608	23,896	1,712
Barrackpore ,, ...	13,093	46,037	59,130	45,075	14,055
Jallapahar ,, ...	311	6,731	7,042	6,496	546
Dorunda ,, ...	2,848	2,049	4,897	2,092	2,805
Dinapore ,, ...	1,503	32,180	33,683	31,466	2,217
Lebong ,, ...	94	7,625	7,719	6,575	1,144
Total ...	20,876	1,20,135	1,41,011	1,18,138	22,873
Cantonment Hospital Funds.					
Barrackpore	37	3,981	4,018	4,018	...
Dum-Dum	4	2,454	2,458	2,453	5
Dinapore	...	4,286	4,286	4,283	3
Jallapahar	296	6,721	7,017	5,829	1,188
Total ...	337	17,442	17,779	16,583	1,196
Grand Total ...	2,68,077	7,66,165	10,34,242	7,87,815	2,46,427

During the year the abolition of the Railway Police Clothing Fund was sanctioned, but was not given effect to till after the close of the year. The receipts and charges on account of Railway Police Clothing are now dealt with in the same way as those of the ordinary district police. The decrease in receipts of the Orissa Ports is attributed to a poor harvest which resulted in a smaller export of rice, and consequently in a smaller number of vessels visiting the ports. The Durga Charan Laha's Fund received a grant of Rs. 1,050 from Provincial Revenues. The Puri Leper Asylum Fund was created for keeping the account of the floating funds of the endowment made by Babu Raj Narain Das and others for the Leper Asylum at that place, while the Garhbeta Pilgrim Lodging-house Fund was abolished. An addition of Rs. 2,100 was made in the invested capital of the Bengal Famine Orphan Fund. A grant of Rs. 5,000 was sanctioned from the Joy Gobinda Laha's Fund for the alleviation of distress owing to floods in Cuttack. The Imambara Hospital Fund received a contribution of Rs. 7,558 from the Mohsin Fund. The Khondmal Road Fund received a Government grant of Rs. 2,518, being equivalent to plough-tax collections in 1906-1907, and of Rs. 3,562 for construction of roads at the head-quarter station.

The Zoological Garden Fund received the Government contribution of Rs. 20,000. In addition to the fixed annual allotments of Rs. 30,000 from the Mohsin Endowment Fund, a further allotment of Rs. 1,290 was made from its surplus income for Muhammadan education in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam. The Muhammadan Burial Board Fund received a grant of Rs. 1,909 from Provincial Revenues. The following grants were received by the Cantonment Fund from the Military Department:—For conservancy, Jalapahar Rs. 3,775 and Lebong Rs. 3,392, for hospitals and dispensaries in Dinapore, Rs. 2,900, and for a special incinerator at Lebong, Rs. 3,000.

Road and Public Works Cesses.

[Report on the operations of the Road and Public Works Cess Departments for 1907-1908.]

Rate at which levied.

605. These cesses were, as in the preceding year, levied at the maximum rate of one anna in each rupee of the annual value of lands or annual net profits of mines and other immoveable properties in the 30 districts in which the Act is in force. The Act is not in force in Angul, the Khondmals, Sambalpur, and parts of the Sonthal Parganas.

Demand.

606. The total valuation for purposes of cess-assessment was Rs. 12,87,56,860. The current demand of land revenue of the 30 districts was Rs. 2,84,13,360, and the current demand for cesses was Rs. 71,20,946.

Realisations.

607. The total demand (current and arrear) was Rs. 84,72,692, and the total collections amounted to Rs. 71,97,473, leaving a total outstanding balance of Rs. 12,83,256. The remissions and reductions amounted to Rs. 67,756, and were mainly due to revision of assessment, exemption of coal-mines from assessment, acquisition of lands for the construction of a railway, and revision of assessment of mines and forests under Chapter V of the Cess Act.

Certificate procedure cases.

608. The number of certificates filed for the realisation of cess arrears was 80,502 against 78,609 in the previous year.

Objections.

609. The total number of objections against certificate cases filed and disposed of was 5,455 and 5,336, against 6,096 and 5,998, respectively, in the previous year. In 146 cases, the amount of demand was reduced, and in 941 cases, the certificates were cancelled on account of various causes.

Stages of satisfaction.

610. In 22,803 cases, arrears were recovered on the issue of notices; in 30,387 cases, on the issue of notices for the sale of the defaulters' moveable properties; and in 16,463, on the issue of notices for the sale of immoveable properties.

Valuations.

611. Revaluations on a more or less extensive scale were in progress in 18 districts. General revaluations were completed in the districts of Burdwan, Bankura, Darbhanga and Palamau.

General.

612. Proposals for the amendment of the Cess Act were submitted to the Government of India.

Municipal Revenue.

[*See* Chapter III—Municipal Administration.]

CHAPTER VI.—VITAL STATISTICS AND MEDICAL SERVICE.

Vital Statistics.

[The Report of the Sanitary Commissioner, Bengal, for the year 1907. Statistics of British India, Part V—Public Health.]

Climatic conditions.

613. The total rainfall of the year was below the normal throughout the Province, except in Orissa, where it was in excess. It was not, however, so much the shortage in the total rainfall that adversely affected the people as the very unequal distribution, and the cessation of rain at an unusually early date.

Births and deaths.

614. Excluding the district of Angul, to which the system of registration of births and deaths has not yet been extended, the number of births registered in the Province was 1,905,425, as compared with 1,885,725 in the preceding year; or 37·70 per mille of population, against 37·32 per mille returned in 1906. The total number of deaths was 1,906,192, as compared with 1,823,243 in the previous year, and the average of 1,749,995 in the five years 1902—1906. The ratio of deaths per mille was 37·72, against 36·08 in the previous year. The average of the previous quinquennium is 34·63. The largest increase in deaths occurred from fever, cholera and plague. The rise in mortality is attributed to the greater unhealthiness of the year. The very high prices of food-grains that prevailed is said to have affected general health in many districts by compelling the poorer classes to have recourse to unsuitable food which lowered their vitality, and so rendered them more susceptible to fever and other prevailing diseases and more liable to succumb to them. On the other hand, the fact that the total number of deaths from fever was considerably less than in 1905, the increase in the total number of births and the figures of infant mortality tend to show that these causes did not operate universally. The experiment of testing the accuracy of the vital statistics was continued throughout the year in certain parts of the Burdwan district, with the usual result, viz., that, in a considerable number of cases, the entries as to the cause of death were found to be inaccurate.

Cholera.

615. The mortality from cholera was the highest recorded since 1901, the total number of deaths reported being 205,702 against 192,596 during the preceding year, and 138,999, the average of the previous quinquennium. The rise in mortality is ascribed in a great measure to pollution of the water-supply, and to the use of unwholesome food by the poorer classes in consequence of the high prices prevailing. The disease was most virulent during the last five months of the year, and especially in September. While no part of the Province enjoyed complete immunity, the districts of Champaran, Darjeeling, Sambalpur, Singhbhum and Ranchi were comparatively free from the disease. Orissa suffered most severely, the three districts of Cuttack, Balasore and Puri together reporting more than one-fourth of the total deaths in the whole Province. From the Cuttack district alone, 31,805 deaths were reported, of which three-fourths occurred during the months of August, September and October, when the insanitary conditions that supervened on the heavy floods must have largely conduced to the spread of the disease. The treatment of wells with Permanganate of Potash was successfully adopted in many parts of the Province, and the people are gradually learning to appreciate this method of disinfection.

Fever.

616. The total number of deaths from fever was 1,171,540, as compared with 1,132,579 in 1906 and 1,214,487 in 1905. The districts which suffered most were Birbhum, Purnea, Palamau, Nadia, Monghyr and Murshidabad, which recorded a mortality, respectively, of 38·27, 36·96, 33·19, 32·38, 32·02 and 31·23 per mille. Calcutta and Puri again showed the smallest proportion of deaths from this cause. Anti-malarial measures continued to be carried on at Ranaghat and Jagdispur and in certain selected areas of the North Barrackpore Municipality. Several Municipalities have undertaken anti-malarial measures, with useful results. The report of the Drainage Committee, appointed by Government to investigate the prevalence

and causes of malaria and to what extent it is due to obstructed drainage, was received during the year. Action has already been taken in respect of most of the recommendations made. The Government of India sanctioned the deputation of a special Indian Medical Service Officer for the purpose of conducting a systematic and continuous enquiry into the causes of malaria and the extent to which it prevails; while the question of creating a special engineering division for the examination of the drainage conditions of specified areas is still under the consideration of that Government. A scheme prepared by the Inspector-General of Civil Hospitals for the deputation of a large number of selected Civil Hospital Assistants during the fever season to distribute medical aid in specially malarious tracts has been sanctioned. A leaflet containing instructions for self-treatment with quinine, and stating where the pice-packets can be obtained, has recently been widely distributed in English and in the vernaculars. The question of adopting special measures to popularise, as widely as possible, the use of quinine as a febrifuge amongst the mass of the people is under the consideration of Government.

Dysentery and Diarrhœa.

617. The number of deaths registered under this head was 51,670, against 48,920 in the preceding year. The causes which contributed to cholera also helped to swell the death-rate from these diseases. The Orissa Division showed the heaviest death-rate, and the Bhagalpur Division the lightest. Of individual districts, Howrah, as usual, suffered most.

Respiratory diseases.

618. The total mortailty from this cause was 15,039, against 12,825 in 1906. There has been a gradual increase under this head during the past few years, which is most probably due to more careful reporting. The largest number of deaths was, as usual, returned from Calcutta (5,007).

Injury.

619. During the year 25,283 deaths were reported under this head, against 26,695 in 1906, and an average of 24,366 in the five years 1902—1906. Of these, 3,170 were due to suicide, 1,571 to wounds, 11,327 to accidents, and 9,215 to snake-bite. In 18 districts 215 cases of snake-bite were treated, 17 with Anti-venene and 198 with Permanganate of Potash. With the former mode of treatment 70 per cent. of cases were successful, and with the latter over 88 per cent. ended in recovery. These results must be regarded, so far as they go, as highly satisfactory; and Government has issued orders that Permanganate lancets should be widely distributed throughout the districts, so that persons bitten by venomous snakes may be able to avail themselves of the treatment without undue delay.

Sanitary Improvements.

620. Considerable interest and much useful action was taken by District Boards and Municipalities in the promotion of sanitary measures, an increase in expenditure of over four lakhs of rupees being incurred by municipal bodies alone under important heads of sanitation.

Sanitary Board.

621. During the year the Sanitary Board prepared preliminary estimates for water-supply schemes for Burdwan and the Akra Brick Factory, and detailed estimates for a scheme for Puri and for remodelling the Bhagalpur scheme. The detailed scheme for a water-supply for Monghyr was also completed during the year. The details of the Gaya water-supply scheme were under preparation. Besides these, eleven drainage and three water-supply schemes for various Municipalities were considered by the Board. Among the former, the most important were the Hooghly-Chinsura, Howrah, Puri, and the Nawi and Sunthi Rivers Drainage projects. The last named, which is estimated to cost nearly six lakhs of rupees, has been taken up under the Bengal Sanitary Drainage Act. The tract of country to be benefited by the scheme comprises an area of 70 square miles, and includes the Barasat Municipality. The water-works schemes were for Darjeeling, Howrah and Kurseong.

Plague.

General.

622. There was a rise in the mortality from plague, as compared with the previous year, the number of deaths recorded being 83,602, against 59,619 in 1906 and 126,084 in 1905. As usual, the disease was most prevalent from January to May. More than 90 per cent. of the total number of deaths occurred in the Patna Division, the districts worst affected being Saran (30,007 deaths), Patna (21,858 deaths), Shahabad (10,067 deaths) and Gaya (7,645 deaths).

Evacuation of houses continued to be the measure chiefly relied on, and most largely resorted to by the people themselves; but there are indications that the prejudice against inoculation is gradually weakening, though this measure is still regarded with disfavour by the great mass of the people. In Calcutta 3,123 persons, and in the rest of the Province 2,766 persons, were inoculated, as compared with 101 and 1,777, respectively, in the previous year. Chemical disinfection has practically been abandoned. Rat extermination as a preventive measure was carried on in several places with comparative success, the incidence of plague being less severe than in other localities where no such measures were taken. During the year a special conference was convened to consider the most appropriate lines of action in view of the experience of the last ten years; and, as a result, a special leaflet was drawn up by the Sanitary Commissioner and distributed, after translation into the several vernaculars, throughout the plague-affected portions of the Province. In the Saran district an attempt was made to enlist the sympathies of the people themselves on the side of remedial measures, by taking advantage of the new Chaukidari Union System and enrolling the Presidents and the members of these Unions as local committees for the purpose.

623. The outbreak of 1907 presented no unusual features except that it was delayed, and it was not until the middle of March that the usual sudden rise in mortality declared itself. The maximum was reached in the week ending the 27th April 1907 instead of in the week ending the 30th March or the 6th April, as has hitherto been the case. The outbreak of plague during the year, though attended with a mortality about 50 per cent. greater than that of the previous year, was not severe. The number of rats killed during the year was 122,090, but it is doubtful whether this has materially affected the rat population of the city. Plague in Calcutta.

624. The only plague observation camp in this Province is at Siliguri, where 73,635 persons were examined during the year under report and 9 persons were detained. No death occurred amongst the latter. Plague observation camps.

625. There were two cases of plague in the port, one on a vessel which arrived from Rangoon and the other on a steamer which was lying in the river. Both vessels were disinfected. Port Precautions.

Emigration.

COLONIAL EMIGRATION.

[Annual Report on Emigration from the Port of Calcutta to British and Foreign Colonies during the year 1907. Statistics of British India, Part V.—Administrative and General.]

626. The following administrative measures were adopted by this Government during the year under review. Administrative measures.

With a view to diminishing the mortality in emigration depôts due to cerebro-spinal meningitis, orders were issued during the year for the prompt submission of information to the Emigration Agents of the occurrence of any case in the recruiting districts, in order that, if necessary, recruitment might be suspended in affected areas or that, at least, recruits from such areas should be subjected to special surveillance.

The period for which steamships conveying emigrants to the West Indian Colonies have by rule to be provisioned, which had hitherto been 13 weeks, was, in January 1907, reduced to 12 weeks in the case of the voyage from Calcutta to Jamaica and 11 weeks in the case of the other colonies. In consequence of the trouble and inconvenience caused by the presence of insane persons on emigrant ships, a new rule was introduced during the year requiring the provision of a separate compartment on board-ship for persons who may become insane or violent and obstreperous during the voyage. The Colonial Governments were also requested to issue instructions to prevent the repatriation, without the permission of the Surgeon-Superintendent, of immigrants who had shown signs of insanity during the 12 months previous to the date of embarkation.

The question whether the Protector of Emigrants was entitled to refuse to license recruiters who were under age, was raised during the year. It was

finally decided that he had power to refuse a license to any person whom he might consider unfit either on account of his youth or for any other reason.

Depôts and despatch of labour.

627. Seven Emigration Agencies were at work during the year, six representing the British Colonies, and one the Dutch Colony of Surinam. The total number of emigrants requisitioned and despatched amount to 8,415 and 7,178 as against 13,277 and 13,362, respectively, in 1906, the falling off in the demand for labourers being particularly noticeable in the case of Natal, for which the figures were 456 as compared with 3,640 in the previous year. The decreased demand for labour naturally led to a corresponding falling off in the number of emigrants registered, the figures being 13,160 or 10,176 less than in the year 1906, though it was reported that there was not much difficulty in securing recruits, owing, no doubt, to the continued high prices of food-grains in the recruiting districts. As in previous years, the majority (85·12 per cent.) of the emigrants were recruited in the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh, the districts of Fyzabad, Basti and Gorakhpur supplying the largest number.

Health and Physical fitness.

628. Of the 13,229 emigrants admitted into the sub-depôts, 2,278 were rejected as unfit to emigrate, and of the rest 10,214 arrived in the depôts at Garden Reach. This number was increased to 11,292 mainly by the addition of 792 emigrants who remained over from the previous year and of 273 invalids who were readmitted from hospital after recovery. Rejections, releases and other causes, however, brought down the figures to 8,290. The figures showed a decrease in comparison with the statistics for 1905-1906 when 9,322 and 14,035 emigrants, respectively, embarked for the Colonies. The largest number of emigrants (1,795) was received by Trinidad and the smallest (456) by Natal.

The sanitary arrangement in the depôts were satisfactory. The total number of emigrants admitted to hospital was 996, of whom 84 died, the corresponding figures for 1906 being 1,618 admissions and 139 deaths.

Returned Immigrants and savings.

629. During the year under review 4,212 emigrants returned from the Colonies, bringing with them savings amounting to Rs. 7,53,016-0-9, the average for each emigrant being Rs. 178-12-5, as compared with Rs. 159-8-8 per head in the preceding year. On the other hand, as many as 1,459, or 35·49 per cent. of the total number of returned emigrants, came back with no savings at all. Of this number, however, 845 were children. As in previous years, the immigrants in Natal sent the largest remittances by money orders, the total amount so sent being Rs. 9,95,603-12.

Emigration Fund.

630. The accounts of the Emigration Fund showed that the receipts and the charges amounted to Rs. 24,826 and Rs. 26,674 respectively, as against Rs. 42,551 and Rs. 27,863, respectively, in 1906. The deficit of Rs. 1,848 was due to the fact that a large number of emigrants requisitioned for 1907 by the Government of Surinam, were not despatched until the beginning of 1908, and the fees realized on their account are not therefore included in the accounts of the year. The decrease of Rs. 17,725 in the receipts was caused solely by the falling off in the demand for labour during the year under review.

Inland Emigration.

[The Reports on Inland Emigration under Act VI of 1901 for the year ending the 30th June 1908, submitted by the Superintendents of Emigration, Calcutta, the Sonthal Parganas, Hazaribagh, Ranchi, Palamau, Manbhum and Singhbhum and Sambalpur.]

Administration.

631. The orders of the Government of India on the Report of the Assam Labour Committee of 1906 were issued during the year under review, and several important administrative measures based on the Committee's recommendations were introduced in this Province. The so-called "free" recruitment under section 92 of the Act, which was a fertile source of abuses, was prohibited throughout the Province, and recruitment by contractors under Chapter III of the Act was stopped in the districts of the Patna and Bhagalpur Divisions, with effect from the 1st November 1907. Other changes with regard to this method of recruitment are still under the consideration of the Government. With a view to the encouragement of genuine free recruitment through *bonâ fide* garden sardars, special concessions were granted

to the Tea Districts Labour Supply Association, under which garden sardars working under the control of the Local Agents of the Association were authorized to forward unindentured emigrants without producing them before a Registering Officer. The necessary checks have been provided by requiring the monthly submission by local Agents of complete lists of emigrants, and by empowering any Magistrate and any Police officer above the rank of Sub-Inspector to inspect the local Agents' registers at any time. A further safeguard is provided by the condition that no person recruited in this way, shall be required to enter into a labour contract under the Act. A reference was made in the last year's Report to the practice of illegally despatching emigrants without registration from certain British districts, as having been recruited in the adjoining Native States. This abuse, which was becoming serious, will, it is hoped, be stopped by the orders since issued by this Government, which require that emigrants recruited in Native States shall be registered in the first British districts they enter. In order to prevent the issue of contractors' licenses to unsuitable persons, all Superintendents of Emigration in this Province were instructed to consult the Magistrates of the principal recruiting districts as to the antecedents of applicants before the grant of licenses.

Variation in number of emigrants.

632. The number of emigrants of all classes recruited in Bengal, Madras, the Central Provinces and the United Provinces, who embarked during the year at Goalundo, was 81,587, against 24,503 in the previous year. This striking increase is attributed to the scarcity and high prices of food-stuffs prevailing in the recruiting districts. The total number of emigrants registered in this Province under Chapters III and IV of the Act was 8,748 and 6,825, respectively, compared with 2,347 and 3,817 in 1906-1907, while 1,865 emigrants, as against 1,324 in the previous year, were recruited by garden sardars holding special permits under section 90 of the Act. Twenty-one thousand four-hundred and fifteen emigrants were recruited by garden sardars working under the control of the Tea Districts Labour Supply Association. Of these, only 1,382 were registered under the Act, and the remaining 20,033 were sent away unregistered, in accordance with concessions granted to the Association. The number of emigrants reported to have been recruited according to the "free" system under section 92, which was in force only during the first four months of the year, was 4,397, as compared with 13,297 during the twelve months of the previous year.

The prohibition of the so-called "free" emigration under section 92 of the Act led to an appreciable increase in the number of licenses issued to contractors and recruiters, which were 24 and 340, respectively, during the year under review, against 13 and 181 in the previous year. The year being specially favourable to recruitment, an unusually large number of garden sardars were sent down from the tea gardens. The total number employed was 7,010, or 2,939 more than in the previous year. Of these, 545 held special permits under section 90 of the Act, 1,411 worked under the ordinary procedure of Chapter IV, and the remaining 5,054 worked under the control of the Tea Districts Labour Supply Association.

Inland Transport Fund.

633. There was an improvement in the financial position of the Inland Labour Transport Fund. The receipts and the charges during the year under review were Rs. 16,918 and Rs. 20,872, respectively, as against Rs. 8,277 and Rs. 20,902 in the previous year. The increase in the receipts was due to the larger number of emigrants registered.

Criminal cases.

634. The number of criminal cases in connection with recruitment fell from 149 in the previous year to 81 in the year under review, and the number of persons convicted was 50, as against 60 in the year 1906-07. The figures would seem to indicate that illegal practices are gradually diminishing, but abuses are still reported from some districts. There is, for instance, reason to believe that emigrants are illegally recruited in the areas which have been closed to recruitment under Chapter III of the Act, and conveyed to contractors' depôts situated outside those areas. It is the duty of every registering officer to satisfy himself before registering any emigrant that such emigrant has been properly recruited within his jurisdiction. Instructions have recently been issued insisting that this duty shall be properly fulfilled.

Medical Institutions.

CALCUTTA MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS.

[Report on the working of charitable dispensaries and hospitals under the Government of Bengal and the Calcutta Medical institutions for the year 1907. Statistics of British India, Part V—Public Health.]

Calcutta Hospitals and Dispensaries.

635. During the year under review, important additions and alterations were made to the Presidency General Hospital, Medical College Hospital and the Campbell Hospital. The new paying patients' ward at the Presidency General Hospital which has been named the "Woodburn Ward" in honour of the late Sir John Woodburn who was deeply interested in its construction, the surgical block and the paying patients' blocks for Indian patients in connection with the Medical College Hospital, and the remodelling of the main building in the Campbell Hospital were the principal works in progress. Various arrangements tending to the comfort and convenience of the patients and general attractiveness of the hospitals were also made. The surroundings of the Presidency General and Campbell Hospitals, which were in an insanitary condition, were improved, the lands being acquired and insanitary tanks filled up. The question of reorganizing the nursing arrangements at the Presidency General and Medical College Hospitals, owing to the enlarged and improved conditions of these institutions, and of placing them on a more satisfactory footing, has been under consideration since the close of the year.

The number of public institutions in existence during the year was 17, the same as in the previous year. There were treated in them 28,721 in-door patients against 28,136 in the previous year. The increase was shared by most of the institutions except the Ezra and the Campbell Hospitals. The decrease in the latter institutions was due to the curtailment of accommodation owing to the reconstruction of the main building. The Eden Hospital had an accession of 427 patients, and the Dufferin Victoria Hospital, 233, in 1907, which testifies to the growing popularity of these institutions among the female population. The Sambhunath Pandit Hospital had an increase of 513 patients. The accommodation for in-patients was ample in all except the Sambhunath Pandit Hospital where there was some overcrowding. All possible arrangements were, however, made to receive the increased number of patients, and steps are now being taken to make the necessary extensions.

The number of out-door patients treated during the year was 288,040 against 271,078 in the previous year or an increase of 16,962. The increase occurred chiefly in the Medical College Hospital, Eden Hospital, Mayo Hospital and its branches, and the Dufferin Victoria Hospital.

Diseases treated.

636. Small-pox which prevailed in an epidemic form in 1906 declined towards the end of June 1907. The number treated in the hospital fell from 851 in 1906 to 479 in 1907. The majority of the cases were admitted to the special wards of the Campbell Hospital, and the question of improving these wards on modern lines was under consideration. Cholera, plague, dysentery and diarrhœa were more prevalent in Calcutta than in the previous year. The number of admissions to hospitals of cholera cases was greater during the year than in the previous two years, and the number of plague cases shewed a slight increase (300) over the number (199) in 1906. The decrease in the number of tubercular diseases was very slight. Thirty cases of Beri-Beri were admitted during the year in the several hospitals, and seven of these ended fatally. The disease occurred in an epidemic form in the Alipore Reformatory School where there were 50 cases with two deaths.

Income.

637. The total income of the Calcutta Hospitals, excluding the Police Hospital and the Dockyard Dispensary, increased from Rs. 14,48,158 in 1906 to Rs. 18,40,102 in 1907. The latter figures include a contribution of Rs. 1,40,000 from the Minto Fête Fund, which was distributed as follows:—Medical College Hospital, Rs. 20,000; Presidency General Hospital, Rs. 20,000; Campbell Hospital, Rs. 40,000; Sambhu Nath Pandit Hospital, Rs. 10,000; Mayo Hospital, Rs. 25,000; and the Dufferin Victoria Hospital, Rs. 25,000.

Expenditure.

638. The total expenditure, excluding the amount invested, was Rs. 16,78,994 against Rs. 13,72,119 in 1906. Of the amount expended in 1907, Rs. 8,44,151, or nearly half, represented charges on account of buildings.

CHARITABLE DISPENSARIES OUTSIDE CALCUTTA.

639. At the close of the year 1907, 587 dispensaries were in operation, of which 66 were State institutions, 64 Railway, 266 local fund, 45 private aided, and 146 private non-aided, dispensaries. The system of deputing medical officers in charge of dispensaries to visit outlying market centres yielded satisfactory results in 21 districts in which it prevailed in 1907. A floating dispensary was started in Cuttack and proved useful, 1,929 patients having been treated in it during the year. A similar institution in Khulna, which failed to effect much good, was eventually closed. Number of Dispensaries.

The number of in-door patients treated rose from 61,647 in 1906 to 63,379 in 1907. The increase was due, not only to the unhealthiness of the year, but to the growing popularity of the dispensaries.

640. Out-door patients increased from 3,874,079 in 1906 to 4,013,446 in 1907. The increase was shared by 30 districts. The unhealthiness of the year had an important bearing on the increased attendance, but a large portion of the increase was attributed to the improved condition of the dispensaries, to better administration, and to the personal efforts and popularity of the medical officers.

641. The total number of patients, in-door and out-door, treated at all the hospitals and dispensaries, including those in Calcutta, amounted to 8·82 per cent. of population in 1907 against 8·36 in 1906. Out-door relief.

642. The year 1907 was less healthy than its predecessor owing to diminished and irregular rainfall. As usual, malarial fever and allied complaints accounted for the largest number of admissions, the figures being 1,072,854 in 1907 against 941,606 in 1906. Skin diseases and diseases of the eye showed 552,896 and 163,127 admissions, respectively, in 1907, as compared with 564,133 and 139,336 in 1906; while no less than 335,268 persons were treated for intestinal worms in 1907 against 305,867 in 1906. The number of cholera patients brought to the dispensaries increased from 10,873 to 12,984 in the same period; but the number of plague and small-pox cases so treated continued to be very small. One of the most satisfactory features of the returns was the marked increase in the number of female patients that availed themselves of treatment at the dispensaries, the number in the past year being 18·67 per cent. higher than in 1904. This rise is no doubt due in large measure to the steps taken during the last few years to provide separate treatment for females. Diseases treated.

643. The total income of dispensaries in class I (State public), III (local funds) and IV (private aided) was Rs. 12,15,892 in 1907 against Rs. 12,17,765 in 1906. Towards the construction of new hospital buildings in several districts and the purchase of new equipments in several dispensaries, Government gave a grant aggregating Rs. 1,27,082 in 1907 against Rs. 1,84,499 in 1906. As in the previous year, grants-in-aid were given towards the improvement of several dispensaries by the Divisional Commissioners from the funds placed at their disposal by Government. Municipalities paid Rs. 2,10,407, and District Boards Rs. 2,75,998 in 1907, against Rs. 1,99,444 and Rs. 2,92,231, respectively, in 1906. Income.

644. The total expenditure excluding the sums invested was Rs. 9,07,655 in 1907 against Rs. 8,90,387 in the previous year. The large increase in total expenditure was chiefly due to the construction of new buildings, to the abnormal rise in the prices of food-stuffs, to a larger number of patients, and to the addition of new dispensaries. The cost of diet increased from Rs. 71,523 in 1906 to Rs. 80,936. The amount spent on European and bazar medicines was Rs. 1,55,194 in 1907 against Rs. 1,67,424. The expenditure in 1906 was large owing to the fact that in several dispensaries additions were made to the stock of surgical instruments, and in many cases, old and unserviceable instruments were replaced by new ones. Expenditure.

Eden Sanitarium, Darjeeling.

[Report on the Eden Sanitarium and Hospital for 1907.]

645. The total number of admissions was 490, consisting of 351 patients and 139 relatives and friends, against 494, 344 and 150, respectively, Number of admissions.

in 1906. The number of patients in the year under review exceeded that of any year since 1903, which shows that the benefits of the hospital section of the institution are well appreciated.

Funds.

646. The total income of the institution, excluding fees realized on account of nurses, was Rs. 46,702-4-9, or Rs. 12,796-3-3 more than in 1906. There was a large increase, viz., Rs. 6,538-4, in the amounts realized from patients of class II, due to the larger number of patients of this class admitted during the year. The financial condition of the institution had not been satisfactory in previous years. To bring about equilibrium between receipts and expenditure, additional charges were, with the sanction of Government, levied from the patients. The total expenditure was Rs. 45,655-9-4 against Rs. 41,638-9-5 in 1906. The heaviest expenditure was on account of diet, which cost Rs. 19,740-12 against Rs. 14,931-14-7 in the previous year, the increase being due partly to the larger number of patients and to the abnormal rise in the prices of food-grains, but mainly to the extravagance of the house-keeper, whose services have now been dispensed with. The average cost of diet per inmate was only Re. 1-14-3 against Re. 1-9 in 1906. After meeting the large expenditure of 1907, there was a surplus of Rs. 1,046-11-5 at the end of that year, which is satisfactory.

Free beds.

647. As usual, four free beds were maintained for the benefit of convalescent patients from the Medical College and General Hospitals, Calcutta. These were occupied throughout the season. The cost, reckoning them as third class, was Rs. 962-8. Two free cots were maintained throughout the season—one by the Theo-Beryl Fund and one by the Children's Ministering League. In addition to these free beds, Rs. 500 is allotted by the Committee for free beds to be expended at the discretion of the Superintendent. One free bed was utilized by the Superintendent during the year at a cost of Rs. 146. The rule whereby Commercial Firms, Banks, etc., can obtain a reduction in the rates charged for their European Assistants, if admitted to the Sanitarium, was taken advantage of by two firms. Donations and subscriptions amounting to Rs. 350 only were received during the year. Rupees 551-5-3 were received from the collections of the Hospital Sunday Fund in accordance with the suggestion made by the Committee.

Lunatic Asylums.

[Report on the Lunatic Asylums in Bengal for 1907. Statistics of British India. Part V—Public Health.]

Number.

648. On the 1st January 1907 there were under confinement in the Asylums 836 lunatics. The numbers admitted and re-admitted during the year were 196, while 104 were discharged and 76 died, leaving 852 lunatics under detention at the end of the year, against 836 in 1906. Of these two totals, criminal lunatics constituted 47·30 and 47·96 per cent., respectively.

The accommodation provided for lunatics was sufficient, except that there was some temporary overcrowding in the pauper ward at Bhawanipur. This was soon removed by the transfer of certain lunatics to Berhampore. The capacity of the Patna Asylum has been considerably enlarged by the conversion of one of the work-sheds into an excellent sleeping barrack.

Admissions.

649. The admissions numbered 181, or 7 less than in 1906. There was a further falling off in the numbers sent to the Berhampore Asylum from Calcutta and the 24-Parganas, the figures being 56 against 71 in 1906. In previous years, these two districts supplied the largest number of lunatics to the Dullunda Asylum, but since its closure the numbers sent to the Asylum have steadily dropped, a result which was anticipated from the distance of Berhampore from Calcutta and its neighbourhood.

Fifteen lunatics were readmitted against 23 in 1906. At Berhampore, there was a decrease of 9 as the result of action taken by the Magistrate who, instead of returning to the Asylum, after trial, criminal lunatics who were harmless and charged with trivial offences, made most of them over to their

friends, the Superintendent certifying in each case that it was safe to do so. Of the non-criminal lunatics, 6 were re-admitted at Bhawanipur after long intervals, and 1 at Patna relapsed after 12 days only.

650. The number discharged from the Asylums was 104 against 133 in 1906. The decrease is attributable to the survival of a large number of chronic cases at Berhampore who will never be fit for discharge. The total number discharged as cured fell off, mainly for this reason, from 89 in 1906 to 69 in 1907, the percentage of recoveries on daily average strength being 10·7 an d 8·12, respectively. The result still compares favourably with the recovery rate in English Asylums, where it was 8·31 in 1906, after excluding the statistics of the Idiot Establishments. Discharges.

651. The total number of admissions for hospital fell from 850 in 1906 to 555 in 1907, the largest reduction taking place at Berhampore, where 363 lunatics were admitted against 681 in the previous year. Many sanitary improvements were carried out at this Asylum during the year. The drainage has been remodelled, closed-in verandahs have been entirely opened out and doors removed, thus immensely improving the ventilation of the barracks. Tuberculosis cases were all isolated and segregated, and better bathing and sanitary arrangements were made. These and many other minor improvements all contributed to the improvement in general health. At Patna, the admissions rose from 119 in 1906 to 152 in 1907. Bowel-complaints (dysentery and diarrhœa), which showed a decrease in this Asylum in 1906, were more common in 1907, the number of cases being 43 against 20 in the previous year. There were defects in the supply of drinking-water, and since these have been removed, a reduction in these complaints has been noticed. There was only one case of small-pox against 3 in 1906. Sickness.

At Berhampore, bowel disorders showed a decided falling off, the admissions being 37 against 101 in 1906. This was due not only to the causes mentioned above which contributed to the better health of the lunatics in 1907, but also to the fact that the patients were regularly examined and treated for intestinal parasites. Tubercular phthisis, as usual, accounted for a large number of admissions, viz., 24 with 22 deaths, against 28 and 21, respectively, in 1906. It is notorious that lunatics in all parts of the world are extremely liable to this malady. Of 22 patients who died of the pulmonary form of the affection, no fewer than 1 exhibited symptoms of disease on admission, and eight of them died within a year of their residence in the Asylum. Suitable arrangements have now been made for the segregation and separate treatment of tubercular patients.

Fevers were less common, there having been in all 185 cases against 267 in 1906. The issue of prophylactic doses of quinine in unhealthy months probably contributed to this favourable result.

652. The total death-rate on daily average strength was 8·94 per cent. against 10·27 in 1906 and 9·19 per cent. in 1905. The rate of mortality in 1907 was less than that recorded for the same year in the Asylums in Eastern Bengal and Assam (9·88), United Provinces (9·13), Punjab (17·59), and Madras (16·30). It was even less than obtained in 1906 in the County of Borough Asylums in England (10·11). The death-rate for the Province was highest at Berhampore (9·37) and lowest at Bhawanipur (2·58). Total death-rate.

Two of the patients who died at Berhampore had spent 35 years in the Asylum, and two others over 20 years.

653. The total expenditure on the Asylum amounted to Rs. 1,62,593-13-7 against Rs. 21,671-6-8 in 1906. As usual, diet cost the largest amount, viz., Rs. 64,079-4-10, against Rs. 51,500-2-1 in 1906, an increase of Rs. 12,597-2-9, due chiefly to higher prices of food-grains. The cost per lunatic was Rs. 75-7-3, against Rs. 62-4-3 in 1906. As regards the charges for superintendence which rose from Rs. 19,373 in 1906 to Rs. 27,975-14-7 in 1907, it should be stated that the appointment of a whole-time Superintendent at Berhampore throughout the year, and the promotion of the officer to a higher rank during the year added largely to the cost. The charge per lunatic was Rs. 32-15 1 against Rs. 23-6-9 in 1906. The average cost per lunatic was Rs. 191-7-1, against Rs. 117-1-9 in 1906. Finance.

The amount realized from paying patients was Rs. 14,958-15-8 against Rs. 13,040-0-5 in the previous year. Bhawanipur collected Rs. 1,553 more

than in 1906 owing to the admission of a larger number of patients of this class. There was a falling off both at Patna and Berhampore. Difficulty was felt in admitting to the Berhampore Asylum paying patients from Calcutta, owing to the existing law requiring an injunction of the High Court. Steps are being taken to amend the law in order to remove this difficulty.

General remarks.

654. Both at Patna and Berhampore, several serious defects in sanitary arrangements and buildings were removed in the year under review which, in a great measure, contributed to the satisfactory results already noticed above. Every effort was made by the Superintendents to make the lives of the lunatics contented, comfortable and healthy.

A Special Committee was appointed by Government during the year to examine the Lunatic Asylums Act and the procedure under it. This Committee submitted a recommendation for the amendment of section 17B of the Act, which has received the approval of this Government and of the Government of India. The Manual of Rules for Lunatic Asylums was also carefully revised during the year by Major Robertson-Milne, I.M.S. The Committee considered the recommendations made by this officer, and a revised draft of the Manual as passed by the Committee is now under the consideration of Government.

The scheme for the construction of a Central Lunatic Asylum for Natives at Ranchi was submitted to the Government of India; but at the instance of that Government, it was revised again by a Committee appointed by this Government. The scheme for the establishment of a Central European Lunatic Asylum at Ranchi was also, by the direction of the Government of India, revised by a Committee, but their report has not yet been received. Both these Asylums have been planned on the Villa Colony-System, and, if carried out as designed, will be superior to any similar institutions ever built in Asia.

Sanitation.

[Fortieth Annual Report of the Sanitary Commissioner for Bengal, 1907.]

Important sanitary works in towns and rural areas.

655. The total cost of the sanitary works executed during the year 1906-1907 by Municipalities, District Boards, Government and private individuals amounted to Rs. 8,56,196, against Rs. 8,39,839 during the previous year; the following being the most important, each costing Rs. 5,000 or more :—

	Rs.
(1) Constructions of drains in Howrah town ...	42,449
(2) Extension of filtered water-supply in the Maniktala Municipality	30,344
(3) Extension of filtered water-supply in the Tollygunge Municipality	7,000
(4) Preliminary arrangements, etc., for starting the drainage work at Tittagarh	19,372
(5) Construction of a road to the trenching-ground at Garden Reach	6,304
(6) Excavation of a tank at Chatra in the Hooghly district by a private individual ...	5,000
(7) Extension of the Parsi Tower of Silence at Baliaghata in the Maniktala Municipality ...	26,444
(8) Contribution paid by the Gaya Municipality towards the Gaya water-works Fund ...	30,000

Several samples of septic-tank effluents were examined at the Bacteriological Laboratory of the Sanitary Department, often with unsatisfactory results. The Deputy Sanitary Commissioner of the Bengal and Orissa Circle was therefore deputed to inspect some of the installations thoroughly and suggest remedial measures. Some improvements have since been effected on the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner's recommendation, the results of which are now being awaited. The rule regarding the provision of self-acting lock-out

turnstiles was rigidly enforced. The Special Inspector of Factories inspected 23 of these installations during 1907, and noticed that the effluent was not being kept up to the proper standard of purity.

Sanitary supervision at fairs and festivals.

656. Special attention was paid to the observance of sanitary and medical precautions at all important fairs and festivals held during 1907. In Puri elaborate arrangements were made during the two great festivals of *Dol Jatra* and *Rath Jatra* for preventing the outbreak of any epidemic disease, especially cholera. Notwithstanding the precautions taken, there were 116 deaths from cholera during the Sagar *mela* in January, and thereafter the town remained practically free until July, when pilgrims poured in for the Car festival, resulting in a sharp outbreak of the disease, which proved fatal to 231 persons. The Sonepur fair, which lasted from the 8th to 19th November, was attended by nearly six lakhs of people, and considering the unusually large gathering, the general health of the people was fairly good. As in the year before, proper sanitary arrangements were not made at the Karagola fair in Purnea, and the result was that a severe epidemic of cholera broke out and began to spread with the return of the pilgrims. Since then it has been decided that the Deputy Sanitary Commissioner should proceed to the place some time before the *mela* opens, and concert necessary measures in consultation with the district authorities and the local manager of the Darbhanga Raj, the proprietor of the *mela* ground. At all other places the fairs passed off uneventfully.

Vaccination.

[Short Notes on Vaccination for the year 1907-1908. Statistics of British India, Part V—Public Health.]

Vaccination.

657. The upward tendency of the mortality from small-pox, which was noticed last year, was maintained during 1907-1908, there being 31,614 deaths against 23,543 in the previous year. The largest number of deaths was recorded in Gaya and the smallest in Darjeeling. Vaccination continued to make steady progress, notwithstanding the prevailing high prices and the consequent reluctance on the part of the poorer classes to offer their children for vaccination owing to their inability to pay the fees. Several useful reforms were introduced into the Vaccination Department which have tended to better work and greater efficiency. The pay of the subordinate inspecting staff was increased; arrangements were made to give the inspecting and vaccinating staff instruction in the most approved modern methods of vaccination at selected centres; and the system of granting rewards to vaccinators was generally introduced. Antiseptic vaccination was employed throughout the province; and the change has been attended with satisfactory results. In order to prevent the deterioration of lymph, it is now supplied direct to the vaccinators from the Calcutta Depôt. On account of the abnormally high mortality from small-pox in Orissa, special measures were adopted for pushing vaccination, and a Special Inspector appointed for the Division.

LIBRARY OF THE BOMBAY BRANCH OF THE ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY

CHAPTER VII.—INSTRUCTION.

General System of Public Instruction.

See—
GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGES 306—314.

Education.

[Report on Public Instruction in Bengal for 1907-1908. Statistics of British India, Part VII—Educational.]

General.

658. The last year was, like the few years immediately preceding it, a period of considerable activity in educational matters. A keen interest has been evinced in all quarters in questions of educational reform: a careful survey has been made of the educational needs of the province; several important measures have been introduced and the lines along which progress should be made during the next few years have been laid down.

Training College for English teachers.

659. One of the most important questions which has of late years engaged attention is the training of teachers. In the beginning of the year the Director of Public Instruction submitted as cheme for the training of English and vernacular teachers which involved a considerable departure from the scheme sanctioned in 1905. The new proposals, based on expert advice, had been carefully worked out; but they involved heavy expenditure on land and buildings, the recruitment of additional officers from Home and the training of select members of the subordinate staff in England. There were likely to be prolonged and indefinite delays before the scheme could be brought to fruition, and it was, moreover, doubtful whether an elaborate scheme was really required to launch what was at the start admittedly an experiment. The question was accordingly referred for the consideration of a conference of educationists and in accordance with their views a training class for English teachers has been opened in connection with the Hare and Hindu Schools, some of the classes of which will be utilized for practical work. Arrangements have been made for training, with the help of the staff already recruited, a class of twenty graduate teachers for the degree of Bachelor of Teaching of the Calcutta University. The class has been named after the late David Hare.

Vernacular training schools.

660. The unsatisfactory condition of the vernacular training schools is due in part to the bad curriculum of studies which is prescribed at present. Pending consideration of the wider question of the reorganization of two of the schools and their conversion into model training schools, conducted by a highly efficient staff, a committee will be appointed to revise the existing curriculum. The problem of staffing the schools properly will not be satisfactorily solved until teachers trained in the principles and practice of their profession in the David Hare Training College are available in sufficient numbers.

Guru-training schools.

661. Steps were taken to establish an additional *guru*-training school in each subdivision and ninety-three new schools were in working order at the end of the year. The improvement of the schools depends largely on the Head Pandits, who are usually passed students of training schools. A better class of teachers cannot be expected unless the training schools are reformed in the first instance.

Training schools for female teachers.

662. A training class for female teachers has been opened on an experimental basis in Calcutta under the charge of a Bengali lady who was specially deputed to England for a course of training.

The scheme for the establishment of a training college for female teachers at Bankipore received the sanction of the Secretary of State towards the close of the year.

663. On the 31st March 1908 there were 34 Arts Colleges attended by 5,493 students. Colleges have been organized on the basis of the new regulations of the Calcutta University, and though the standards have been considerably raised, the new system has worked smoothly, and the institutions have adapted themselves to the new conditions. The changes introduced by the new regulations are specially marked in the department of science, and affiliation to the University was refused to several colleges which proposed to undertake the teaching of the new science courses. The higher standards now demanded necessitate a substantial increase of the existing staffs of colleges. Proposals have been formulated for a general increase of the staff of Government Colleges, and pending the sanction of the Secretary of State some temporary appointments have been made in order to enable the staff to cope with the increased work. The Presidency College is at present cramped for want of space. Land is being acquired for its extension and for the construction of a physical laboratory. The Minto Hindu hostel and the Muhammadan hostel for the students of the Patna College are ready for occupation. The senior and junior scholarships, awarded on the results of the Intermediate and Entrance examinations respectively, which were reduced in 1904, have been restored to their original number and value. Arts Colleges.

664. Grants have been made to several private colleges, formerly unaided, in order that they might attain to the standard of efficiency required by the University regulations. Grants to private Colleges.

665. The scheme for the establishment of a residential Arts College at Ranchi has received the sanction of the Secretary of State. The College will supply a long-felt want in this province, viz., that of a College for the sons of the nobility, the zamindars and the professional classes. It will also supply a local want by providing a Government College for the Chota Nagpur Division. Lastly, it will aim at giving effect to the new ideal as regards University education. His Honour Sir Andrew Fraser laid the foundation-stone of the College in September last. Ranchi College.

666. During the last year there were 1,454 secondary schools, including 390 high schools, 658 middle English schools and 406 middle vernacular schools. The number of pupils at the close of the year was 149,013, of whom 64,681 were studying in secondary classes and 84,332 in primary classes. Secondary Schools.

667. Much time and money is being spent on University reform; but as the colleges are dependent for their material upon the high schools, no real progress can be made as regards collegiate education, until the high schools which feed them are in a satisfactory condition. The rescue of these schools from their present degraded position is one of the most urgent problems. The whole subject was considered by a conference of administrative and educational officers of the two provinces of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam, and a scheme for the improvement of secondary education based on the decisions arrived at has been submitted for the consideration of the Government of India. There is a unanimity of opinion that the chief defect lies in the inadequate pay and inferior qualifications of the staff. Improvement of secondary education.

668. The course of studies in the highest classes of high schools is dominated almost entirely by the Matriculation examination of the Calcutta University which is educationally a passport for entrance into a college. No attempt has yet been made to frame a course of studies suitable for the large number of students who never intend to enter upon a University career, and at present take the matriculation examination merely because there is no alternative examination which suits them. There is practically a unanimity of opinion that the present domination of the matriculation examination is a bar to progress, and that the institution of a school final examination is essential. During the year under report a Committee was constituted for the purpose of considering the course of study for the four highest classes of high schools alternative to the matriculation examination and making any other proposals with the object of preparing the way for the introduction of a school final examination. School final examination.

Text-books for lower secondary classes.

669. The unsatisfactory nature of the syllabus and text-books prescribed for the lower secondary classes of middle and high schools was recognized. A revised syllabus of studies for standards III to VI has been drawn up. Text-books will now be prepared on the basis of the new syllabus. It is contemplated that English should be taught in the junior classes by the Direct Method.

Primary education.

670. The total number of primary schools was 33,954, of which 3,089 were upper primary schools and 30,865 were lower primary schools. The number of pupils at the close of the year was 983,254, of whom 149,400 were attending upper primary schools and 833,854 were attending lower primary schools. As compared with the year immediately preceding there was an increase of 29,799 pupils.

The majority of primary schools have no permanent abode and no equipment. Some progress has been reported in the construction of buildings. A revised syllabus has been drawn up for the infant section and for standards I and II, and many of the text-books required were prepared before the close of the year. One of the most important questions considered in the course of the year was the abolition of fees in primary schools. The matter is now under the consideration of the Government of India.

Female education.

671. The number of female pupils in secondary and primary schools shows a satisfactory increase of 9 per cent. The results of the Bethune College and Collegiate school in the University examinations were satisfactory. Much yet remains to be done for female education, and apparently no satisfactory results can be expected until there is an adequate supply of trained and efficient teachers.

European education.

672. The proposals for a revision of the Code of Regulations for European schools have received the approval of the Government of India. European schools which have formerly been classified as High, Middle and Primary will now be classified as Secondary and Elementary. Provision has been made for suitable curricula and for the award of scholarships to deserving students at appropriate stages. A system of scholarships has also been instituted with the object of encouraging European students to proceed to Arts and Professional colleges. The draft revised Code was received after the close of the year.

St. Paul's School.

673. The property of St. Paul's School, Darjeeling, has been vested in the Treasurer of Charitable Endowments on the application of the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop and the Ven'ble the Archdeacon of Calcutta, and steps have been taken to place the school on a secure financial footing.

Muhammadan education

674. The number of Muhammadan pupils increased by 14 per cent. It is noteworthy, however, that the greatest increase was in the number of pupils attending *maktabs* and that there was a decline in the number of students undergoing University education. During the past year an important conference of representative Muhammadan gentlemen and others interested in Muhammadan education was held to consider certain questions connected with Muhammadan education. The report submitted by the Director of Public Instruction on the basis of the recommendations of the Conference deals with the institution of a title examination for the students of the Calcutta Madrasah, the improvement of the system of education in vogue in Madrasahs in general and in *maktabs* and Koran schools, the teaching of Urdu, the appointment of a special inspecting staff for Muhammadan education and the prospects of Madrasah students who qualify in English. The report was received after the close of the year, and no final orders have yet been passed.

Hostels and messes.

675. The new University Regulations with regard to the residence of students came into force during the last year. The control of the residence of students has been assumed by the University. The working of the Calcutta mess scheme has been accordingly transferred to that body.

Expenditure on education.

676. The total expenditure on public instruction during the year 1907-1908 was Rs. 1,24,56,227, out of which Rs. 41,37,792 was contributed from the Government revenues. The total expenditure incurred on the education of Europeans and Eurasians during the year was Rs. 16,68,539, out of which Rs. 4,79,180 was contributed from the Provincial Revenues.

Controlling agencies.

677. The sanctioned cadre of the Imperial Educational Service consists of 32 appointments, of which only 22 were filled at the close of the year. Consequent on the increase of the superior inspecting staff it has been decided

that each Inspector's division should be placed in the charge of an Inspector of Schools in the Imperial Educational Service, an officer in the Provincial Educational Service being also stationed in each division as an Additional Inspector of Schools. The female inspecting agency has been strengthened by the appointment of a second Inspectress of Schools, who has been placed in educational charge of the Hindi-speaking divisions of Bihar, Bhagalpur and Chota Nagpur, and of several Assistant Inspectresses of Schools. There is now an Assistant Inspectress for each Division.

Reformatory Schools.

[Annual Report on the Reformatory Schools at Alipore and Hazaribagh for the year 1907. Statistics of British India, Part VII—Educational.]

678. The number of boys admitted to the Reformatory Schools rose from 95 in 1905 to 146 in the year under review. In accordance with the orders of Government the Boards of Management examined the lists of admissions with the object of ascertaining whether there were any cases which could have been more suitably dealt with under the provisions of section 562, Criminal Procedure Code, or section 31 of the Reformatory Schools Act (VIII of 1897). As a result of this scrutiny, seven boys were released from the Alipore School; but in the case of the Hazaribagh School no exception was taken to the decisions of the convicting Courts. Number of boys admitted.

679. The judicial returns for the year under review showed that 396 youthful offenders were discharged on probation under section 562, Criminal Procedure Code; while 45 were released after admonition or made over to their guardians under section 31 of the Reformatory Schools Act. The corresponding figures for 1906 were 282 and 60 respectively. Discharges.

680. The number of admissions to hospital rose from 61 in 1906 to 118 in 1907 in the case of the Alipore School, and from 58 to 114 in the case of the Hazaribagh School. At Alipore beri-beri broke out in an epidemic form, but there were only two deaths in a total number of 50 cases. The proposal to remove the Reformatory to Hazaribagh was sanctioned by the Government of India after the close of the year. Health of inmates.

681. There was again a distinct and satisfactory improvement in discipline, the number of punishments falling from 201 to 113. This improvement was especially marked at Hazaribagh, where the figures fell from 149 to 54. There was no remarkable variation in the number of marks obtained by the boys for good conduct and industry, and their average earnings were very much the same as in the previous year. Due attention was paid to physical drill and gymnastics at both the schools. Punishments and conduct.

682. As regards general education the results in both schools were satisfactory. At Hazaribagh 19 boys reached the upper and 25 the lower primary standard. At Alipore the upper primary standard was abolished, but 38 boys passed the lower primary stage. At this school additional optional instruction in Bengali and Hindi was provided in the case of Indian boys, and in English in the case of European and Eurasian boys and of such Indian boys as had passed the lower primary examination and were working as compositors. Education.

683. As usual, the boys were instructed, as far as possible, in their caste trades, agricultural work being taken up at Hazaribagh and industrial work at Alipore. At the latter school arrangements for the examination of the industrial work were further improved; and the classes were divided into elementary, intermediate and advanced. Out of 209 boys in the school, 135 appeared at the industrial examination and 101 passed, an exceedingly satisfactory result. At the Hazaribagh school good progress was made in farming and market-gardening, the average number of boys under training rising from 79 in 1906 to 104 in 1907. Training in Industries and Agriculture.

684. The figures with regard to the occupation followed by boys after release are still disappointing. Only 36 out of 166 boys discharged from the Alipore Reformatory School and 52 out of 157 boys discharged from the Hazaribagh School during the three years preceding the year under report, were found to be engaged in the industries which they had been Subsequent history.

taught. Of the total number of boys released (323) from the two schools no less than 49 remained untraced, but 223 are reported to be leading honest lives. During the year under review, the number of boys under license from the Alipore School was 56 as against 49, and from the Hazaribagh School 2 as against 23 in the preceding year.

Literature and the Press.

Bengal Library.

685. The number of publications received and catalogued in the Bengal Library during the year was 2,995 against 3,440 in the previous year. The decrease of 12·9 per cent. was mainly due to the fact that during the year under review, publications registered in the Province of Eastern Bengal and Assam were not catalogued in this Library. One hundred and twenty-seven cases of evasions of the law of Book registration were reported to the Inspector-General of Registration, resulting in the recovery of books in 22 cases only.

Out of the 2,091 books received, 1,734 were original works, the rest being republications or translations, while out of a total of 904 periodicals, 131 represented distinct issues.

Subjects treated.

686. The books comprised new works dealing with Biography, Music, Industries, the Drama, Fiction, History, Philosophy, Poetry and Politics. In the domain of History, the Drama and Fiction no work of any real importance was produced. A noticeable feature of the year's literary output was the appearance of a large number of handbooks on industrial subjects and of translations from Western works dealing with industrial and technical Education.

Act XXV of 1867.

687. During the year there were three prosecutions under Act XXV of 1867 against 36 in the previous year. Convictions were obtained in all cases.

The Native Press.

688. The number of vernacular newspapers at the close of the year was 90, an increase of 12 over the figures for 1906. The visit of the Amir of Afghanistan; the treatment of Indians in British Colonies; the attitude of the police and of the courts towards *Swadeshi;* race distinction in the administration of criminal justice; sentences of whipping; the new University Regulations; the proposed expansion of the Legislative Councils and creation of Advisory Councils; the Seditious Meetings Act, and the prevailing high prices of food-grains in the country were among the chief topics of interest discussed by the Native Press during the year. The vernacular newspapers, with one or two honourable exceptions, continued to show an unreasoning hostility to Government.

Literary Societies.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGES 321-322.

Arts and Sciences.

Proposed appointment of Superintendent of Industries and Inspector of Technical and Industrial Education.

689. While Technical and Industrial instruction in Bengal has not been without stimulus and advance in the year under report, its progress awaits the control and impulsion which it is anticipated will be secured by the appointment of an expert to take charge of this branch of instruction. A proposal has been made during the year for the appointment of such an officer to work in the meantime under the Education Department with the title of "Superintendent of Industries and Inspector of Technical and Industrial Education." In the meantime Mr. J. G. Cumming, I.C.S., was placed on special duty for a period of six months in connexion with an enquiry as to Industrial questions in the Province. Mr. Cumming's report, which is in two parts, the first dealing with Technical and Industrial Education in Bengal,

the second with the Industrial position and prospects in Bengal in 1908, has, since the close of the year, been submitted to Government. It lays the ground for progress.

690. On 31st March 1908 there were 353 students of all classes on the rolls of the Sibpur College. The total expenditure was Rs. 2,61,038 and the cost to provincial revenues Rs. 2,24,463. The corresponding figures for the previous year were Rs. 2,22,981 and Rs. 1,92,618. The results of the B.E. and F.E. Examinations continue to be satisfactory. Civil Engineering College, Sibpur.

691. The lack of residential quarters for the staff of demonstrators and assistants in the college is reported to interfere seriously with the work of the laboratories. The opening of new departments and the operation of the new University Regulations have further emphasised the necessity of increased school accommodation. No proposals for extension of buildings have, however, been submitted, in view of the determination to remove the college to Ranchi. The plans of the buildings to be erected at Ranchi have now been prepared and submitted for approval. Removal of Sibpur College to Ranchi.

692. The unhealthy condition of Sibpur would appear to have developed seriously for the worse, and, as the projected removal to Ranchi cannot take place for some years yet, operations will require to be undertaken for improving the sanitation of the present site. Unhealthy condition of Sibpur.

693. The first class of students to be prepared for the new Intermediate Examination in Engineering was enrolled in June 1907. Revised rules for the Engineering Department have been submitted, and are at present awaiting the sanction of Government. New courses of study and revised rules.

694. While the total number of students on the rolls of the Bihar School of Engineering at the beginning of the school session was satisfactory, it shows a decrease in comparison with the preceding year in the number of Beharis and Muhammadans. The total expenditure was less than in the previous year by almost Rs. 3,000, largely owing to a saving in the cost of establishment. Bihar School of Engineering.

695. Thirty-four students of the Cuttack Survey School were successful at the last Final Survey Examination, and the Principal reports that all have been provided with appointments. Cuttack Survey School.

696. Towards the close of the year the establishment was sanctioned of a Joint Technical Examination Board, whose function it will be to control the Overseer and Sub-Overseer and the B class Final Examinations, and to advise the Governments of Bengal and Eastern Bengal and Assam with reference to the syllabus of studies to be followed in the Overseer and Sub-Overseer and B classes. Overseer and Sub-Overseer Examinations.

697. The mining class at the Sibpur College has worked successfully during the year. Five students were successful in passing the diploma examination and all have obtained positions with good prospects. The Principal reports that the demand in the coal-fields for passed students is good, and is considerably in excess of the present supply. A number of scholarships have been created by Government for award to ordinary students of the mining class. Sanction has been given to a scheme for the admission to the class of assistants and officers who have completed at least two years' employment in a mine, and four special scholarships have been created for these students. The Mining Class at Sibpur.

698. Mr. Griffith, the Mining Instructor, reports that the work of the session, which commenced on the 11th November, was interfered with by an outbreak of cholera in the coal-fields in the month of April of so serious a nature that the session had to be brought to a close. This was done under the orders of Government in the beginning of May, the attendance at lectures having at that time dropped to below 40 per cent. of the normal. The scheme has otherwise been successful. Mr. Griffith has at present under consideration the question of an improved scheme of instruction to take the place of the existing one on the expiry of the present experimental period. Mining Instruction in the mining districts.

699. As already indicated, the subject of industrial education had been fully gone into during the year by Mr. J. G. Cumming, I.C.S., and future policy will probably be based on his recommendations and on the experience gained from the working of the experimental scheme for the establishment of a weaving school at Serampore. The operation of this scheme at the close of the year still awaited the arrival of the officers to take charge of the work whose appointment has been sanctioned by the Secretary of State. Industry.

Government Commercial Classes, Calcutta.

700. In the beginning of the session 1907-1908, 20 students were admitted to the second year and 45 to the first year of the day classes, as compared with 51 and 30 in 1906-1907. The reduction in the number of students in the second year would appear to represent a partial elimination of undesirables. Taken in conjunction with the increase in the first year roll, it is an augury not devoid of hope. The evening classes also appear to be recruiting a more purpose-like class of students. While the number of pupils in all classes is still disappointingly small, the classes must be regarded as still finding their way to recognition. They have still many obstacles to overcome, but there is hope for their development in the awakening commercial activity of the province and the demand which may arise for commercial clerks with both a wider and more special education.

Commercial Class at the Victoria School.

701. The Commercial Class for Europeans and Eurasians at the Victoria Boys' School, Kurseong, has been closed. There is apparently no demand for commercial instruction on the part of the European and Eurasian community.

B and C Classes.

702. The B and C Classes, which provide technical and commercial instruction in high schools, continued throughout the year.

Calcutta School of Arts.

703. The numbers in the rolls of this institution were maintained. The total expenditure incurred during the year was Rs. 22,647-12-3. Twenty-three students are reported to have secured appointments as drawing teachers, draftsmen, and designers in Government and private offices, on salaries varying from Rs. 20 to Rs. 75 a month.

Agriculture.

704. Orders were passed by Government during the year for the closing of the agricultural classes at Sibpur. The charge of advanced instruction in this subject will hereafter rest on the Agricultural Department. Elementary instruction will, however, continue to be provided in schools and training schools; and, in a few high schools, more specialized instruction under the supervision of the Director of Agriculture will be given.

CHAPTER VIII.—ARCHÆOLOGY.

Archæology.

Restorations and repairs.

705. Portions of the ancient buildings at Pandua and Tribeni were thoroughly repaired. The tombstones of Sher Afgan and Kutab-ud-din at Burdwan were restored. Special repairs were executed to the ancient fort at Daltonganj and partial repairs to the tomb of Khan Jahan Ali and the Satgambuz Mosque near Bagerhat. At Kanarak the removal of the stone heap on the west of the temple and the planting of trees were finished, and the clearance of the remaining heap of sand from the western part of the compound was in progress.

CHAPTER IX.—MISCELLANEOUS.

Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction.

See—

GENERAL ADMINISTRATION REPORT FOR 1901-1902, PART II, PAGE 325.

Ecclesiastical.

Establishment.

706. The Ecclesiastical establishment in Bengal during the year, paid entirely or in part by Government, consisted of the Lord Bishop of Calcutta, the Archdeacon and Bishop's Chaplain of Calcutta, the Domestic Chaplain to the Lord Bishop, the Registrar of the Diocese, the Most Revd. Archbishop Dr. Brice Meuleman, S.J., 12 Chaplains of the Church of England, 2 Chaplains of the Church of Scotland, 12 Ministers of the Additional Clergy Society or other Societies and 11 priests of the Roman Catholic Church.

Chemical Examiner's Report.

[Report of the Chemical Exmianer for 1907. Statistics of British India, Part VI—Judicial.]

Total of cases.

707. During the year 7,473 articles were examined, as compared with 5,528 in the previous year. The increase was chiefly in the work of the General Analytical Department where a large number of samples of confiscated cocaine were received, each of which had to be subjected to separate analysis.

General Department.

708. The total number of analyses in the General Department during the year was 3,493 against 2,133 in the previous year, showing an increase of 1,360 chiefly due to a large increase in the number of samples of "cocaine" received for examination from the Excise Department. Three hundred and nine samples of kerosine oil were examined for the Port Commissioners, of which 12 samples were declared dangerous petroleum. Forty samples of ghee were examined, eight of which were of good quality, and the remainder proved to be adulterated either with fat or vegetable oil. Only four samples of milk were sent for examination, and of these three were found to be diluted with water and of inferior quality. One hundred and ninety-two samples of water were analysed, of which 46 were received from officers serving outside this Province. The percentage of good and potable water was 70·83 against 74·38 in 1906.

Medico-legal cases.

709. Two thousand one hundred and ten medico-legal cases were investigated in 1907, as compared with 1,762 in the previous year. The viscera of 757 human beings were examined against 648 in 1906, poison being detected in 38·57 per cent. of the cases, as compared with 47·22 per cent. in the previous year. As usual, the most common poison used was opium, which was found in 18·84 per cent. of the cases examined. Arsenic came next, being found in 8·16 per cent. of the cases examined. The viscera of 366 cattle were examined during the year against 303 in 1906, with the result that arsenic was found in 266 cases, or in 72·67 per cent., as compared with 77·88 per cent. in the previous year. Greater caution appears to have been exercised by local medical officers in expressing opinions as to the cause of death when sending viscera, etc., to the Chemical Examiner.

Veterinary Department.

[The Annual Report of the Civil Veterinary Department, Bengal, and of the Bengal Veterinary College for the year 1907-1908.]

Bengal Veterinary College.

710. The popularity of the Bengal Veterinary College has increased considerably. There were 151 students on the roll during the year, compared with 104 in the previous year. That the students have been able to appreciate the instruction is proved by the report of the Board of Examiners, which shows that 82, 90 and 88 per cent. of the students passed in the first, second and third years, respectively. The Institution itself has grown rapidly, and during the year the new hostel to accommodate 156 students, the *post-mortem* room, and quarters for the Assistant Surgeon and the Overseers were completed. Much scientific work was done in the new bacteriological laboratory, and in addition to ordinary research important investigations were conducted in connection with rabies cases and the Glanders and Farcy Act. The administration of this Act in Calcutta has now been organized thoroughly. The area has been divided into six districts, each in charge of a Veterinary Inspector.

Veterinary Infirmary, Belgachia.

711. The popularity of the Infirmary has increased, and the number of cases treated was 4,132 as compared with 3,095 in 1906-1907. The number of out-door patients increased nearly 100 per cent.

Veterinary Hospitals and Dispensaries.

712. There were 25 Veterinary dispensaries in Bengal. One dispensary at Arrah was opened during the year, and dispensaries at Chapra and Bhagalpur have been completed since the end of the year. The latter, on which over Rs. 10,000 have been spent, was due to the liberality of Babu Ramani Mohan Singh. During the year there was a very large increase in the number of cases treated at Hooghly, the 24-Parganas, Nadia, Jessore, Darjeeling, Bhagalpur, Angul, Puri and Ranchi, and a large decrease in Darbhanga, Monghyr and Hazaribagh. The total number of patients rose during the year from 32,736 to 61,557. The number of horses treated during the year was 10,430, but the number of cattle treated has increased from 18,525 to 49,458.

Diseases.

713. Leaving the figures of the district of the 24-Parganas, which are not reliable, out of account, the number of deaths from contagious diseases was 10,557 compared with 21,025 last year. There were 259 cases of death from glanders, of which 249 were detected in Calcutta. There was a large decrease in the number of cattle inoculated for rinderpest from 22,613 to 5,978. The percentage of fatal cases was only ·33.

Breeding Operations.

714. Some progress was made in the improvement of the breed of cattle, and steps are being taken to protect the Brahmani breeding bulls in the districts. There are now three herds of cattle at Sripur, Pusa and Kalimpong, respectively, and in time it will be possible to supply good bulls to the surrounding villages.

Fairs and Shows.

715. There were 13 fairs and shows held during the year, and all but two were attended by officers of the Department.

Zoological Garden, Calcutta.

[Annual Report by its Honorary Committee for 1907-1908.]

General.

716. Except for the abnormal influx of visitors caused by the *Ardhyadaya Yoga* festival, who numbered over 53,000, no event of any importance happened in the Garden during the year.

Buildings.

717. The most important improvement carried out was the remodelling of the "Gubbay House" for monkeys. Spacious out-door cages were built and those inside were re-arranged.

The Burdwan House, Smaller Carnivora House and its cages, Rodent House, Buckland Enclosure, Sarnomoyi House, Refreshment Pavilion and Library were repaired, colour-washed and repainted. Petty repairs of smaller houses, sheds and enclosures were also attended to.

Finance.

718. The following comparative statement of the receipts from visitors shows that the financial position of the gardens continues to improve :—

	Rs.	A.
1905-1906	31,224	4
1906-1907	33,474	4
1907-1908	37,731	15

Number of Visitors.

719. The attendance of visitors was more than usually satisfactory, the turnstile records indicating a total for the year of 504,397 persons admitted, giving a daily average of 1,375.

The number of visitors during the two previous years was :—

1905-1906	422,282
1906-1907	457,891

In addition, a large number of children under four years of age and school children attended by their teachers were admitted free. On the day of the Fancy Fair, about 11,200 people, including complimentary ticket-holders, entered the Garden. Special permission was granted to the inmates of the Reformatory School at Alipore to visit the Garden under proper escort.

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